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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 May Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Responds to 'U.S. Threat' to PLO *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
'Call No 17' to 'Children of the Stones' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
'Appeal' To End Palestinian Infighting in Beirut *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Messaadia, 'Arafat Discuss Arab Summit Agenda 7

Egypt

Reportage on Visit of Saudi Interior Minister 7
Arrives, Makes Statement 7
Meets With Interior Minister 7
Received by Mubarak 8
Meets With Abu Ghazalah 8
Received by Prime Minister 9
Concludes Visit, Departs 9
PRC Agriculture Minister Ends Visit, Departs 9
Kuwaiti Justice Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit 9
Meets With Justice Minister 9
Mubarak, Tunisian President Discuss Relations 10
Mubarak Cited on Relations with USSR, Debt 10
AL-AKHBAR Praises Relations With YAR *[23 May]* 11

Libya

Editor Comments on Egyptian-Algerian Ties 11
Pilgrims Cited on Maltreatment by Saudis *[IRNA]* 11

Sudan

'Rebels' Reportedly Suffer Setbacks in Kordofan 11
'Great Number' Surrenders 11
300 SPLA Rebels Killed 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters Arrives in Abu Dhabi 13
Further on Visit by Iranian Oil Minister 13
Holds Official Talks 13
Received by Al-Qasimi 13
Meets Defense Minister 13

Yemen Arab Republic

Egypt's Mubarak Departs Sanaa for Addis Ababa *[MENA]* 13
Salih, Al-Qadhdhafi Confer by Telephone 13

IRAQ

President Sends Message on Nuclear-Free Zones *[East Berlin ADN]* 14
Tariq 'Aziz Meets YSP Central Committee Member 14
Military Spokesman Replies to Iran on Cities War 14
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 15
Communique No 3,188 15
Communique No 3,189 16
Communique No 3,190 16
Communique No 3,191 17
Iranian Helicopters Downed 17
Spokesman Denies Bombings 17

ISRAEL

Shomron Confirms Air Raid on 3 Lebanese Targets 18
Attacks Aimed at Hizballah 18
Soviets To Grant Visas to Delegation in June 18
Novik on Talks With Soviets on Peace Plan, Ties 18
Shamir 'Willing' To Hold Talks With Soviets 20
Shamir Claims Newsmen Held for Security Offenses 20
Rocard Promises Improved Bilateral Relations 20
MAPAM Leader, Romania's Ceausescu Hold Talks *['AL HAMISHMAR 25 May]* 20
RSA Black Leader Attends Africa Day Fete 20
Shamir Favors Early Elections 'in Principle' 21
2 More DEREKH HANITZOTZ Editors Indicted 21
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 21
1 Killed; 'Terror' Ring Caught 21
Update on Incidents 25 May 22
Leaflet No 17 Detailed 22
Poll Shows Right Strengthening, Left Weakening *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 May]* 22

JORDAN

Columnist on Shultz 'Retreat' From Commitment *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 21 May]* 23
SAWT AL-SHA'B on Shamir's 'Negative Attitude' *[20 May]* 23
Report Releases Remittance, Aid, Trade Figures *[AL-DUSTUR 21 May]* 24

LEBANON

Further Reportage on Israeli, SLA Operations 25
Forces Advancing *[VOL]* 25
Clash With Amal Forces 25
'Ferocious Battles' Raging 25
Clash With Hizballah *[VOL]* 26
Israeli Helicopter Downed 26
Belgian Doctor 'Missing' in South Since 21 May *[AFP]* 26
Birri Sends Delegation to Damascus for Talks *[VOL]* 26
Prime Minister Holds Talks in Damascus 27
Iraq's Islamic Amal Group Denies Allegations *[IRNA]* 27
Further Reportage on Amal, Hizballah Fighting 27
'Fierce' Clashes *[VOL]* 27
'Unprecedented' Ferocity *[VOL]* 27
2 Syrian Soldiers Killed *[RFL]* 28
9 Dead, 100 Wounded *[RFL]* 28

SYRIA

Paper Criticizes Murphy Visit, Statements 29
Soviet Interior Ministry Officials Begin Talks 29
Foreign Minister To Visit Japan End of May 29

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Commander Mas'ud Enters Truce With Soviet Troops *[Tokyo KYODO]* 30
Resistance 'Divided' Over Military Tactics *[AFP]* 30
Mujahidin Attacks on Kabul 24-25 May Reported 31
'Heavy Weapons' Attack 31
3 Rockets Fired 25 May *[AFP]* 31
Pakistani Violations of Accords Reported to UN 31
BAKHTAR Comments on Geneva 'Violations' 31
Najibullah's Teachers Day Message on Education 32
Ziray Meets With Vietnamese Youth Delegation 32
Paktia Nomad Assembly Backs Geneva Accords 33
Rabbani, Mujadeddi Interviewed on Soviet Pullout *[Vienna PROFIL 24 May]* 33
BAKHTAR Reports Consumer Goods, Food Situation 34

India

Chinese, Pakistani Arms Taken From 'Terrorists' 35
Temple Situation Noted; Spy Ring 'Smashed' 35
'Terrorists' Kill 10 in Punjab 24-25 May 35
Amendments to Arms, Sikh Temple Acts Planned 35
Briefs 36
SAARC Food Security Reserve 36

Iran

Khomeyni Meets Families of POW's, MIA's 36
Flag of Freedom on Khomeyni's Cancelling Marches 36
Forces Urged To Go to Shalamcheh Front 36
Attack on Shalamcheh Repelled 37
Further Reportage on 'Zolfaqar' Exercises 37
War Games Continue 37
Khamene'i Views Maneuvers 37
Further on Khamene'i Visit 37
Khamene'i on Naval Capability 38
Malekzadegan on Naval 'Mission' 38
UN Envoy Urges Action on Chemical Bombings 38
Britain Said To Support UN Move To End War 39
Iravani, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Cooperation 39
Trade Cooperation Protocol With Bulgaria Signed 40
Central Bank Governor Departs for Sofia for Talks 40
Tehran Daily on U.S. Goals, 'Covert Warfare' *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 May]* 40
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue 41
Attack on Halabjah Repelled 41
Iraq Bombs Mazandaran Province 41
Iraq Attacks Sar Dasht 41
Iraq Chemically Bombs Villages 41
Communique No 3,212 41
Mohammad Corps Dispatch 42

Pakistan

Shi'ites, Ismaelians Flee Sectarian Violence *[AFP]* 42
Reportage on Visit of Iranian Commerce Minister 43
First Round of Talks *[IRNA]* 43
Trade Ties Discussed 43
Meets With President *[IRNA]* 43
Prime Minister Junejo Visits South Korea *[cross-reference]* 44

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Cancels Appointments; Illness Cited 44
Provincial Council Candidate Killed by Gunmen 44
IPKF Continues To Battle LTTE in Mullaitivu 44
IPKF Captures 5 LTTE Members, Seizes Weapons 44

25 May Middle East and South Asia Review

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Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi forces launched an attack in the Shalamcheh sector 25 May in order to "expel the enemy from our chaste land." Initial reports of the operation "please friends and anger enemies," the communique added. An IRGC statement carried by Tehran radio confirmed that a battle is "currently raging" in the Shalamcheh region, east of Basra, stressing that Iraq is using a "substantial part" of its forces in the attack. The IRGC called for the immediate dispatch of reserves to the front to help repulse the Iraqi offensive. A related IRNA report maintained that the attack was repelled, but added that fighting is continuing. IRNA also reported that Iranian forces crushed an Iraqi attack in the Halabjah sector of the northern front the same day.

Meanwhile, a "large number" of Iraqi aircraft flew over 1,000 km to attack the "extremely important" Neka power station in northern Iran 25 May, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The 1,760 megawatt station was turned into "rubble and ashes," the communique claimed. Without mentioning the power station, IRNA acknowledged that Iraqi planes bombed "workers quarters" in the Caspian coast province of Mazandaran 25 May, killing or wounding a number of people. The agency also stated that over 28 civilians were killed and "scores" of others injured in Iraqi air attacks on the Sar Dasht area. An Iranian villager was killed and 10 wounded in a raid in the same area the previous day, IRNA said.

Regarding Iranian air activity, an Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio stated that an Iranian F-5 was shot down during a 24 May raid in the Iraqi III Army Corps sector, east of Basra. However, an Iranian communique cited by IRNA maintained that all Iranian aircraft returned safely from raids on the southern front that day.

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA warned that "catastrophes may befall Iran" when Iraq begins to deal "devastating strikes" to Iranian cities with Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missiles, the Iraqi Air Force, and "other" weapons. The spokesman reaffirmed Iraqi accusations that Iran has regularly shelled Iraqi border cities since Iraq declared a moratorium on air and missile attacks on Iranian cities.

Lebanon

Southern Suburb—Hizballah expelled the Amal Movement from the Al-Ghubayrah area 24 May after battles of "unprecedented ferocity," Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that the Al-Shiyah quarter is now the only part of Beirut's southern suburb remaining in Amal's control. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed that 9 people were killed and over 100 wounded in the fighting, adding that the victims included 3 Syrian soldiers who were killed by mortar fire. On the political level, Beirut radio noted that Prime Minister Salim al-Huss left for Damascus 25 May to discuss the situation with senior Syrian officials.

SLA-IDF Operation in South—Israeli aircraft attacked three targets in south Lebanon 25 May, while IDF units provided artillery and tank assistance to a military operation, the IDF chief of staff disclosed in remarks cited by Jerusalem radio. Foreign correspondents stated that the operations mounted by the IDF and South Lebanese Army (SLA) were directed against Hizballah gunmen in villages north of Al-Nabatiyah, the radio added. Beirut radio had earlier reported the attack by Israeli forces and their "agents" against villages north of Al-Nabatiyah, noting that Israeli warplanes carried out raids and dropped smoke bombs in the area. The radio spoke of "ferocious battles" between the attackers and the Amal Movement, which was "repulsing" attempts to advance on the villages of Al-Luwayzah and Jarju'. A Voice of Lebanon report stated that some 300 SLA soldiers, backed by Israeli helicopters, were advancing toward Jarju' from hills to the east. The operation followed an AFP report that a "large contingent" of Israeli troops, backed by tanks and artillery, had moved into the central sector of the security zone.

Missing Belgian—A Belgian doctor disappeared in southern Lebanon after leaving the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp 21 May, AFP reported. The doctor was working for the Norwegian humanitarian organization NORWAC.

Afghanistan

Dissident Afghan Army officers blew up an ammunition dump near Herat 22 May, causing missiles and shells to rain down on the city for over 3 hours, according to resistance sources cited by AFP. The blast followed the defection to the mujahidin of a major general commanding the army's logistics unit in Herat. Meanwhile, BAKHTAR announced that the "extremists" launched another rocket attack at suburbs of Kabul 24 May, killing one man and injuring others. The bombardment followed eight rocket attacks on the capital the previous week, AFP noted, citing Western diplomatic sources. The agency also reported that the mujahidin have captured Seyyedabad, a "key city" on the Kabul-Ghazni highway.

On mujahidin tactics, AFP indicated that rebel field commanders are advising against an all-out assault on Kabul at this time, in contrast to Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the seven-party alliance, who favors a frontal attack on the capital as soon as possible. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, mujahidin leader in the Panjsher Valley, has

entered into a truce with withdrawing Soviet troops and has been excluded from mujahidin plans for an assault on Kabul, according to sources in Islamabad cited by KYODO.

As for the progress of the Soviet withdrawal General Alexey Lizichev announced in Moscow 25 May that 9,500 Soviet servicemen have thus far returned to the USSR, TASS reported. He also provided the first comprehensive Soviet casualty figures in the war, stating that losses in Afghanistan up to the beginning of May 1988 were 13,310 killed, 35,478 wounded, and 311 missing.

Israel

Occupied Territories—A resident of a Gaza Strip refugee camp was shot dead when he tried to grab a rifle from an IDF soldier, Jerusalem radio reported. The incident occurred when soldiers entered the Al-Burayj camp to make arrests late on 24 May. The radio also noted that an Arab youth was wounded by IDF fire during a demonstration in Nabulus earlier in the day. In another development, the radio cited an IDF announcement that two Arab villagers near Jericho were arrested in connection with recent firebomb attacks on Israeli vehicles in the area.

On the Palestinian side, the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio broadcast another version of the "Call No 17" issued by the "unified leadership of the uprising," announcing that it was carrying the statement in full because "some radio stations" had broadcast an "incomplete" or "distorted" form of the statement. The Al-Quds version includes a call for a comprehensive strike during the U.S. secretary of state's visit in the first week of June, and also says the uprising leadership is standing "on the threshold of total civil disobedience."

Relations With USSR—The Israeli consular delegation will be able to visit the Soviet Union after its visas arrive in June, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that this is in accordance with an agreement that the Israeli delegation will adhere to the original mandate stipulated by the Soviet side. Nimrod Novik, the official involved in talks with the Soviets on this issue, told IDF radio that this is "absolutely not" a humiliation for the Israelis, stressing that the delegation's mandate is what Israel originally requested. The "misunderstanding" between the two sides arose when Israel submitted visa requests with an accompanying explanation, which the Soviets took to be an expansion of the initial mandate request, Novik explained.

Saudi-Egyptian Relations

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif left Cairo following a 4-day visit during which he held talks with his Egyptian counterpart on ways to promote bilateral security cooperation, MENA noted. The discussions also covered methods of combatting terrorism and exchanging expertise and security data.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that his government has taken measures to confront the bread shortage in Khartoum, and he accused "certain people" of attempting to exacerbate the situation and magnify problems, Omdurman radio reported.

On the situation in the south, SUNA reported that the armed forces recently killed 300 SPLA rebels in the Upper Nile-Kordofan region, and that a "great number" of rebels have surrendered to government forces in southern Kordofan.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Responds to 'U.S. Threat' to PLO

JN2405172488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Brothers, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has disclosed that he has received a second U.S. threat to the PLO and its leaders. He said that these threats are to cover up for the racist institutionalized terrorism against our people.

At a news conference in Tunis yesterday, brother leader Abu 'Ammar called on U.S. and international public opinion to check the madness of the U.S. administration. He said that the U.S. Administration will remain accused of involvement in the assassination of Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] as long as it does not provide answers to many questions to the United Nations.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that this threat has been characterized with impudence. U.S. officials have exceeded the bounds of courteous behavior and propriety when speaking about the PLO and its chairman.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: Reagan must understand that Yasir 'Arafat is not an employee of the U.S. Administration but the leader of the Palestinian people and the leader of the most important liberation movement in the 20th century, and that this instigation the U.S. State Department sent to the foreign ministers of Arab and non-Arab countries is a new and overt instigation and sick concept through which the U.S. Administration seeks to hold the PLO and its chairman responsible for alleged terrorist operations, which it falsely attributes to the PLO chairman.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained: I have stated more than once that such talk has nothing to do with the truth. However, I would like to quote the following saying: The culprit always says, come and get me.

I have repeated what the Israeli and U.S. media reported on statements Israel made, in which they said they had obtained advance approval for assassinating Abu Jihad. I would like to remind you that they have arrested the correspondent of the U.S. CNN television network. Afterward, they gave him back his press card and apologized to him after he produced the documents pertaining to this operation, which he had obtained from Israeli officials and which were published in spite of Israeli censorship.

This confirms that these threats have been made to cover up for the racisst institutionalized terrorism Israel is perpetrating against our children, women, and people. It is also an overt attempt at instigation to pave the way for launching preplanned terrorist operations against the PLO and its leaders. This fabricated hue and cry, which has been going on over the past weeks, is to prepare international public opinion for the next crime. This shows that the U.S. Administration, which supports the institutionalized Israeli terrorism against our people, uses U.S. weapons, including poisonous gas that harms children and pregnant women, as the director of the company which produces this gas has admitted. [sentence as heard]

This means that the U.S. Administration is a party to the conflict and not a power that contributes to peace making.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I appeal to U.S. and international public opinion and to all the international organizations to check the U.S. Administration and have it desist from its madness, because the most serious thing in the new statement is that it holds us responsible for all that could take place against U.S. colonialism in the world.

He added: I would like to tell international and U.S. public opinion that this method is a terrorist method because it is a second official threat from the U.S. Administration to the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, which is a member of the Untied Nations, the Arab League, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement. This is a black record that will be added to the the long black record of the U.S. Administration, which is biased against the Palestinian people and against the Palestinian people's interests and rights.

In reply to a question, brother Abu 'Ammar said: I will keep repeating my accusation against the U.S. Administration of killing Abu Jihad as long as this administration does not provide the Untied Nations with the necessary evidence on its noninvolvement. As you know, it has done nothing of the sort. It did not (? deny) that the Boeing espionage aircraft, the two escort aircraft which accompanied it, and the aircraft used to refuel these aircraft were flying over its 6th Fleet in that sensitive area of the Mediterranean. If the U.S. Administration denies this in spite of the fact that it was confirmed by Italian air trafic controllers and if the aircraft was Israeli, then how did it get there and form which base did it take off?

Brother Abu 'Ammar said he doubts that these aircraft were Israeli. He said: In any case, the U.S. Administration is asked to provide answers to these questions. Israeli and U.S. officials have said that the U.S. Administration was involved in this operation.

Brother Abu 'Ammar recalled to mind the Israeli air attack against Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis, which took place in October 1985. Brother 'Arafat said: I said at the time that the U.S. Administration was involved since it (?knew) that the spy Pollard was the one who provided Israel with the documents. They also accused McFarlane after he left the White House and said that he had been the one who made the decision.

In reply to another question on the Moscow summit and the Middle East issue, brother Abu 'Ammar said that Reagan informed Peres that the Middle East issue will be at the top of the hot issues on the agenda. Brother 'Arafat added: leader Gorbachev informed me during our meetings and through letters we exchanged that he will exert all his efforts so that this issue can be discussed seriously. Gorbachev also stressed that he seeks an effective internatioanl conference and not one that will only note the Palestinian people's rights.

Brothers, the following is the official translation of the U.S. threat:

A letter to be communicated to the PLO: Perhaps you are aware of the accusations that are being repeated in Middle East circles, particularly in Palestinian circles, that the U.S. Administration knew about Abu Jihad's assassination and that it had approved this action. On 18 April, the U.S. State Department spokesman said that the Untied States denounces this operation as a political assassination. The U.S. Adminsitration also had no knowledge and did not participate in it in any way whatsoever. It has come to our knowledge that PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat has personally sanctioned a series of terrorist operations against U.S. citizens and facilities abroad in retaliation, as it seems, for the assassination of Abu Jiahd last month. Any eventual attacks against U.S. individuals or facilities to avenge Abu Jihad's assassination deserve denunciation since they are unjustified. We will hold the PLO responsible for any attacks of this kind.

'Call No 17' to 'Children of the Stones'

JN2405115388 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 88

[Call No 17]

[Text] Call! Call! Call! No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the people of Palestine.

Call No 17, the call of the children of the stones and RPGs.

O masses of our struggling people. Our people's great uprising continues and forges ahead with determination and defiance toward the achievement of our people's aspirations to freedom and independence. It does so as one body and with a united Palestinian will and an unprecedented national concensus. The uprising is fully determined to develop and escalate the stages of contribution and sacrifices. The uprising is sacrificing more dear blood as a cheap price to eliminate the nightmare of the facist occupation. Despite all the methods of fascist repression and tyranny by the neo-Nazis, you have by your struggle and with your own efforts given inspiring lessons through your uprising to struggling peoples. Plots, ugly crimes, and attempts at economic strangulation could not undermine your revolutionary will and your insistence on your national goals.

O masses of our heroic people. Our people's contributions and their march of struggle are growing with time. You have given a true revolutionary response to the June defeat, the defeat of the Arab regimes and their programs. You have detonated the mighty revolution of our people. There has been the legendary steadfastness of the fighters of our revolution and their allies in the Lebanese national movement. With the will to fight, the alliance of guns, and the unity of blood they have defeated and humiliated the 'invincible' army during the Zionist invasion of Arab Lebanon and the repeated aggression against Lebanon. They did so despite that army's military and technological superiority. And then there has been the glorious, continuing, and escalating uprising which has proven once again there can be no coexistence with neo-Nazism and its artificial Zionist entity. The uprising has also confirmed that the alternative to struggle and to a protracted people's war as the way to regain our rights to repatriation, self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people.

As it stands on the threshold of total civil disobedience, the Unified Leadership of the Uprising [Al-Qiyadah al-Muwahhadah il-Intifadah] calls on all friends throughout the world to show solidarity and to seek to achieve the demands of the victorious uprising as a prelude to imposing a comprehensive and just solution to our people's sacred cause.

1. To provide international protection for our people under the yoke of occupation, and to annul Zionist violations and laws that conflict with the 1949 Geneva Fourth Convention, including the cessation of the collection of illegal taxes, settlement, amendments to the laws that were in force prior to the occupation and the treatment of our prisoners as prisoners of war.

2. The Palestinian people accept Resolution No 605 unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council—a resolution that approaches our people's cause as the cause of a people who have a legitimate right to live in their own land, thus rescinding all resolutions that do not approach our cause as the cause of a people who have legitimate national rights in their own homeland.

3. To immediately release all the valiant detainees and prisoners of our revolution and our people's uprising, close down all Nazi detention camps, and to desist from the policy of expulsion and deportation from the homeland, the demolition of homes, and persecution of our people.

4. To withdraw the army from residential areas, stop turning the camps into ghettos, and end violations of mosques and holy religious places.

The unified leadership affirms the need to meet these urgent demands by our uprising. While doing so, it also affirms that our Palestinian people's struggle will continue and escalate until our legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO are achieved.

This call coincides with the summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan. Our people's masses attach special importance to this meeting. They call on the summit to agree regarding the establishment of our people's legitimate and human demands to achieve their national independence, self-determination, and return to their usurped homeland. The Soviet-Palestinian agreement, supported by all friends of the people and by an international consensus on our people's legitimate, national rights, is a just, irreplaceable basis for any comprehensive political solution to the Middle East problem.

O masses of our great people, the Arab summit comes after a long waiting period and amid the uprising's lofty escalation as well as the climax of fascist, Zionist repression against our Palestinian Arab people. While affirming the need to extend all forms of unified Arab support and solidarity to the sons of our people, we, on behalf of our masses, children, old men, women, prisoners, and the strugglers of our gigantic revolution, call on the uprising summit for the following:

1. To firmly and explicitly reject Zionist Shultz' initiative and not to receive him, and to foil all imperialist and Zionist plots and schemes against our people and their cause.

2. We affirm that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of our people and the quarter which has the right to speak on behalf of them in all forums with an independent Palestinian will. We condemn all attempts to circumvent this representation and our people's legitimate rights by some Arab sides.

3. To provide democratic liberaties for the Arab masses and to allow them to exercise their natural right to solidarity and cohesion with the masses of the triumphant uprising, to set free all political detainees, and to open all fronts for the fedayeen activity against the Zionist entity.

4. We stress our people's rejection of all suspect plans, especially the Camp David accords, Resolutions 242 and 338, the Shultz initiative, and distribution of functions.

5. We stress the importance of and need for a unified political stand adopting our legitimate national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital under the PLO leadership before the entire world.

O masses of our valiant people, while stressing all previous decisions, the national unified leadership calls on our masses to further escalate their boycott of the occupation authorities' departments and taxes, appointed municipal and village councils, and work inside settlements. It also calls on our masses to deal painful strikes to those violating our people's will and to the Zionist enemy and the herds of settlers. You are called upon to work more, offer further sacrifices, deal further blows, form further public and specialized committees and strike forces, and to hurl further stones and Molotov cocktails.

While we are at the threshold of comprehensive civil disobedience, we call on you to observe the following:

1. The immediate resignation of the employees of the departments of traffic, licensing, organization, housing, identity cards, and labor offices.

2. To completely stop paying taxes and going to the tax department to obtain clearance.

3. The comprehensive and complete boycott of Israeli products. We also stress the need for their merchants in Jeruslaem and elsewhere to work for marketing agricultural products and the national Arab-made industries as an alternative to Zionist industrial products.

4. The removal of merchandise displayed by sidewalk vendors and selling at houses, particularly in the Al-Ram area, and abidance by selling at the set hours.

5. We call on all students working at academic institutions to go to their schools and educational institutions and to adhere to school hours until 1200, and we call on our peoplle to abide by continuing and reinforcing popular education.

We call on our struggling masses to further boycott and confront those who deviated from our people's will. The past and current decisions of boycotting the occupation circles are a contribution to the limited civil disobedience which paved the way for the comprehensive civil disobedience which will be announced after the completion of the necessary conditions. Based on this, we call on you to carry out the following militant program and activities:

1. To consider tomorrow, 25 May the passage of 40 days after the martyrdom of the national leader and struggler brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], a day for staging a comprehensive strike and escalating violent struggle. We also call on our masses and our national frameworks to hold commemorative celebrations and mammoth demonstrations. We also call on the national figures to effectively participate in the required activities to honor our symbolic martyr Abu Jihad and all the martyrs of the triumphant Palestinian revolution.

2. To consider the days of 29 and 30 May days for staging a comprehensive strike and escalating the distinguished struggle on the occasion of the convocation of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

3. To consdier 1 June, international childrens day, a day for our Palestinian children, during which we shall hold children's parades and present gifts to the children of our righteous martyrs, detainees, and valiant deportees.

4. To consider the days from 3-7 June days for a comprehensive strike in reply to the Zionist Shultz' visit, and on the anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon and the defeat of the Arab regimes. During these days, our strike forces should deal the most painful blows to the occupation soldiers, the herds of settlers, and those who deviated from our people's will. These days shall be considered distinguished days of struggle that require a high-level of popular participation.

5. To devote the rest of the days for reinforcing popular education and for forming more popular committees, strike forces, family solidarity committees, and other specialized committees.

O our great people, march steadily and resolutely with a spirit of unlimited and great sacrifices, unified struggle, and strong will to make the dawn of the free and independent Palestine. We will achieve victory. God is with us and victory is near. We are together on the path of liberating man and land.

'Appeal' To End Palestinian Infighting in Beirut

JN2005164688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 May 88

[Station "Appeal" to Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps]

[Text] It was reported a short while ago that the regrettable, sorrowful, painful, and shameful incidents are continuing in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. At a time when our heroic people in Palestine are rising and offering the 'Id [al-Fitr] sacrifices so that our revolution may triumph and so that the banners of victory over the Zionist enemy may be held up, a war breaks out among brothers under the debris of Shatila and the wounds of Burj al-Barajinah. The aim of this war is explicit: It is to steal the camera and spotlights from the heroic uprising. The aims of this war are very carefully planned and meant to strike at anything that gives in to Palestinian consensus and breaks away from the Camp David regime and contacts with the Zionists. We explicitly accuse the one who avoids giving frank answers on the completion of national unity.

Our kinfolk in Shatila, our kinfolk in Burj al-Barajinah, our kinfolk under the debris of Sabra, O families of martyrs in the Shatila mosque, O families of martyrs in the martyrs' monument in Burj al-Barajinah, O families of martyrs in the gardens of houses in Burj al-Barajinah: Rise and stop the bloody fighting. The enemies are gloating over this fighting. What a pity for the aims! And you, my brother who is carrying arms to defend the revolution: How can you face yourself before you face others? How can you claim to be achieving aims in which you believe when you are fighting your brother? Is the one you are fighting a Zionist soldier? We invite you before it is too late and before you go too far in licking your brother's blood to stop and to think before you direct your weapon to your own flesh and blood. Accursed be the fighting that grinds the flesh of brothers, shame on the one who fans the fire of differences, and wretched be the one who remains silent over truth and those who do not hasten to extinguish the fire of sedition.

Algeria

Messaadia, 'Arafat Discuss Arab Summit Agenda

LD2505015988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat held political talks this afternoon at the main party office with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia,member of the Politburo and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the party's Central Committee.

The talks included a number of topics pertaining to Arab issues and the Arab nation's current situation on the eve of the emergency Arab summit, which will discuss ways of supporting the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit of Saudi Interior Minister

Arrives, Makes Statement

NC2105120388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official 4-day visit to Egypt.

Prince Nayif said he is carrying a verbal message from His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, to President Husni Mubarak and to the Egyptian people and government. He added that his visit is an opportunity to discuss issues related to the security of the two countries.

Responding to a question on security measures for the safety of pilgrims, he said that there are measures to safeguard security and the pilgrims, and that more measures will be instituted as a result of the present conditions.

Replying to another question on Iran's announcement that it will not abide by the quota of pilgrims, Prince Nayif said: Whether Iran responds appropriately or not is not important. What is important is that a decision has been made, and the Kingdom will not receive more than 45,000 Iranian pilgrims this year.

Concerning security relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Prince Nayif said that the security cooperation between the two countries continues to exist to their mutual benefit.

Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr, who was on hand to receive the Saudi guest, expressed his pleasure and that of the Egyptian people and government on the arrival of Prince Nayif and his accompanying delegation to their second country. He said that security cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia exists, and is consolidated on a daily basis in combating any aggression against the security of the two countries. He stressed that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are two secure countries, and that each of them is working to protect its own security and safety, in addition to safeguarding peace in the region.

Responding to a question on the measures taken by Saudi Arabia to safeguard pilgrims, Minister Badr praised the efforts taken by the Kingdom to insure security and safety for pilgrims and the holy places.

Meets With Interior Minister

NC2205084288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has expressed his hope for increased security cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, noting that this issue has received the attention of officials of both countries.

In a statement he made at the conclusion of a 2 and 1/2-hour-long session of Egyptian-Saudi talks, Prince Nayif said that all issues of mutual concern in the area of security matters were reviewed and that viewpoints were identical on all these issues. The Saudi official expressed his hope that this meeting will benefit the security of both Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Asked about the exploitation of religion for political reasons in a question which gave Iran as an example, Prince Nayif said: I have noted before that it is a grave mistake to make religion serve politics. The opposite should happen: We must make politics serve religion. Islam considers anything that divides the Muslims and harms their security as unacceptable. He asserted that the Tehran rulers were responsible for the acts carried out by the Iranians during last year's pilgrimage, saying the Iranian people have always participated with other Muslims in the pilgrimage and had never before done anything like that. Prince Nayif pointed out that such acts defame the Muslims in general and harm the security of pilgrims. He went on to say: We reject such acts and will never accept the perpetration of such acts in the holy land, be they by Iranians or by others.

Responding to a question on the status of Iranian pilgrims this year after the break in diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Prince Nayif noted that the severing of relations has nothing to do with the pilgrimage issue. Asked about the delayed Saudi decision to break relations with Iran and the reasons behind the decision, the Saudi interior minister said that bilateral relations are based on two elements: mutual respect and mutual interests. Because of the present rulers in Tehran, he said, these two elements were missing between Saudi Arabia and Iran. He declared that he will not allow any act to take place that violates or goes beyond the major

and minor pilgrimage rituals, nor will he allow the pilgrimage to be exploited for the sake of certain systems or individuals, regardless of who they may be.

Replying to a question on the measures taken to resist terrorism within the framework of mutual cooperation between Saudi Arabia and other states, Prince Nayif said: Terrorism is an international phenomenon. It is not limited to our region only. International cooperation is needed to put an end to terrorism. We must not wait for others to make the move; rather, the Arab countries must begin to confront this terrorism that claims innocent victims through inhuman practices.

Asked for his ideas on this Arab cooperation, Prince Nayif said: I believe that it must not be affected by certain borders and must be for the sake of the entire Arab nation. I believe that the means needed to achieve such cooperation are well-known. The important thing, however, is that we actually adopt these means.

For his part, Interior Minister Zaki Badr said that the Egyptian leadership, government, and people regard fraternal Saudi Arabia with affection, respect, and appreciation. President Husni Mubarak, he added, has always stressed that the security of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the other sister Arab countries is integral. Badr noted: Within this context we are honored to receive his highness the Saudi interior minister and his accompanying delegation to discuss security cooperation. All world systems are endeavoring to cooperate in this respect for the sake of state and public security.

Badr pointed out that cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia has always existed and never ceased, and that this meeting will reactivate and promote this cooperation. Badr stated that the security apparatuses in both countries are known for their competence and capability. However, he noted, cooperation at the international level is now necessary because borders between countries are quickly disappearing. There must be security cooperation to counter this phenomenon, the interior minister said, adding that the cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Egypt is diverse and includes the exchange of expertise and data. Cooperation among our security specialists is progressing at high levels, Badr said, asserting that this cooperation wil continue to the advantage of the two fraternal peoples.

Received by Mubarak

NC2205104888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met this morning with President Husni Mubarak. Afterward, the Saudi minister said that he conveyed to President Mubarak a verbal message from his brother, custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message, which included the king's best wishes, also dealt with bilateral ties, cooperation, and Islamic issues.

Prince Nayif said: I also conveyed to the president a message from Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He added: President Mubarak asked me to convey a verbal message to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Prince Nayif said that he found President Mubarak very understanding, and added that the viewpoints of the two countries are identical on Arab issues.

Asked about the repercussions of the Saudi decision to sever ties with Iran and whether he discussed this matter in his meeting with President Mubarak, the Saudi interior minister said: Egypt's position in this respect has been made public, and the president reiterated it during the meeting.

Prince Nayif was asked about the safety of the pilgrims and whether he broached the subject with President Mubarak. He said: President Mubarak showed interest in this subject, and I assured him that Saudi Arabia has taken all the necessary precautions so that the Iranians will not repeat what they did last year. The Saudi minister emphasized that the security of the holy lands and the safety of the pilgrims are in good hands.

The Saudi minister was asked whether he discussed with the president the restoration of Egypt's membership to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers and Arab security organizations. The minister said: Actually, the brothers in Egypt have not brought up this issue, so we did not discuss it. However, we hope to see Egypt restored to all its fields of action in the Arab world.

Prince Nayif was asked if during his current visit he is going to make arrangements for a future visit to Egypt by Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He said that King Fahd will be visiting Egypt in the near future, God willing, and that the date of such a visit will be set by the king and President Mubarak.

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC2205130588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, today received Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his accompanying delegation, who are currently paying a visit to Egypt. During the meeting, which was attended by Interior Minister Zaki Badr and As'ad Abu al-Nasr, the Saudi ambassador in Cairo, the two officials discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military field.

Received by Prime Minister

NC2305064188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi tonight received Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting, which was also attended by Interior Minister Zaki Badr, discussions were held on relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia in various spheres, particularly security.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia constitute the cornerstone of the Arab area, the Middle East, and the Islamic nation. He added that Egyptian-Saudi relations are strong, solid, historic, and based on serving pan-Arab interests.

Regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Dr Sidqi noted that this reflects the strong relations between the two countries in various fields, particularly at a time when the Arab region and the Middle East are dealing with the Gulf war and developments in the Palestinian issue. This makes coordination between the two countries vital, he added.

Dr Sidqi further pointed out that economic cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia is progressing, adding: We will soon see joint projects between the two countries. In conclusion, the Egyptian prime minister said that the Egyptian Government and people welcome the upcoming visit to Egypt by the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz affirmed that relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia are strong, covering all various fields and serving the interests of the two peoples and the Arab nation in general. The Saudi interior minister added that his talks with Dr 'Atif Sidqi demonstrate an identity of viewpoints on various issues discussed during the meeting and aim to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2405183988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz left Cairo this evening following a 4-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. While in Egypt, he conveyed a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations and cooperation in the Islamic world. The Saudi prince also held an official round of talks with Interior Minister Zaki Badr, in which they discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of security. They also discussed methods of combating terrorism and exchanging expertise and security data.

During his visit, the Saudi interior minister inspected a number of security and police installations, including the Central Security Forces Department and the Police Academy, where he laid the foundation stone for an international gymnasium at the police sports center in Al-Darrasah [in Cairo], which will be named after the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was seen off at Cairo Airport by Interior Minister Zaki Badr and As'ad Abu al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador to Cairo. In a predeparture statement, the Saudi interior minister said that he will convey a verbal message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from President Husni Mubarak in response to the king's message. He praised the hospitality accorded him by the Egyptian senior officials, and pointed out that he had held fruitful talks while in Egypt, particularly with Minister Badr, on bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr, who saw the Saudi minister off at the airport, said that the visit by his highness the prince [sentence as received].

PRC Agriculture Minister Ends Visit, Departs

NC2205144488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—PRC Agriculture Minister He Kang left Cairo for Cyprus today following a week-long visit to Egypt, which was undertaken in response to an invitation from Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture. President Husni Mubarak met with the Chinese minister yesterday, during which he received an invitation from the PRC leaders to visit China.

Kuwaiti Justice Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit

NC2205184388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 May 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Kuwaiti Justice Minister Shaykh Dhari 'Abdallah al-Othman arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation of jurists for a 5-day official visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Kuwaiti minister disclosed that he will convey a verbal message from His Royal Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to President Husni Mubarak. He added that he will also hand Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi a written message from his Kuwaiti counterpart dealing with ways to promote judicial cooperation and the exchange of data and information between Egypt and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Meets With Justice Minister

NC2305131988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasr today received Kuwaiti Justice Minister Dhari 'Abdallah al-Othman and his accompanying

delegation in Cairo. Discussion during the meeting dealt with preparations for signing an agreement for bilateral judicial and legal cooperation. The two officials also discussed a possible protocol for training Kuwaiti judicial and prosecution staff members at the national center for judicial studies in Cairo. The officials agreed to implement the necessary legal and constitutional procedures to bring about this agreement. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Tunisian President Discuss Relations
NC2405192188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali here this afternoon.

In a statement after the meeting, which lasted more than 1 hour, the Tunisian president said that Egyptian-Tunisian relations are extremely good. President Mubarak described the meeting as good. He added: We talked about bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. There has been progress in Egyptian-Tunisian relations and Egypt is eager to consolidate them in every way. President Mubarak added that the Tunisian president had invited him to visit Tunisia and that he will do so soon.

Mubarak Cited on Relations with USSR, Debt
NC2505041988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has stated that there have not been any problems with the Soviet Union for a long time. He added: We have constant consultations with the Soviet Union on all issues, particularly the Middle East problem. These contacts are continuous and increasing.

In remarks to Egyptian correspondents in Addis Ababa, President Mubarak said: The Soviet Union is a superpower and we cannot ignore that. It also has relations with the United States and both superpowers are trying to get closer together. Thus, it is in the interests of small countries to have relations with the superpowers so that there may be general benefit to both.

President Mubarak stated: We are cooperating with the Soviet Union in the 5-year-plan projects. There is also a lot of cooperation in all fields with the United States, the Eastern Bloc, and European countries. He added that Egypt also has good relations with Asian countries, China, Japan, and all the African countries. There are only slight problems with Libya and Syria—Lebanon is excused—and these are all simple problems, he declared.

Regarding the meeting of the two leaders Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, President Mubarak said: We hope that there will be a policy of detente and agreement between the two superpowers so that we can avoid wars and destruction, which we as small countries cannot afford.

Asked about the forthcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, President Mubarak noted that the first time Shultz came to the region and during his own recent visit to the United States he had said: "Do not think that a problem that has lasted more than 40 years can be solved in one trip. Do not despair and do not get angry. The matter requires a second, third, and fourth trip. There would be no problem if a solution could be found in a single trip."

Mubarak added: Our policy is clear. We are saying that Shultz' tour has both positive and negative aspects; let us stick to the positive ones and then we can deal with the negative aspects in our conferences. The president added: I do not believe that the U.S. secretary of state will undertake an initiative that is either 100 percent favorable to our interests, or 100 percent favorable to Israel's interests. We must work on these things and not reject them.

Mubarak said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will be happy when Arabs reject and will say that the Arabs are the ones doing the rejecting. He asked: When will we learn? We should have learned our lesson in the 40 years during which this has been happening. We continue to reject and whenever we reject we lose.

On the issues to be discussed at the African summit conference, Mubarak said that there are difficult problems on the summit agenda and they require much work and great efforts by the creditor countries. He asked whether we can solve them in their absence.

On the question of an international conference on the debt problems of African countries, Mubarak said: There must be coordination between creditor and debtor countries so as to guarantee that there will be action. We cannot say that the debtor countries must stop paying their debts, but they must look for ways to ensure that they will not face pressures that will limit their development. He added that there are difficult problems which need great efforts.

Asked what the Arabs are doing about this issue, President Muberak said: What do you want the Arabs to do? Tell our Palestinian brothers to agree and let us start with the issue of Palestinian representation in the talks. What can the Arabs do if the Palestinians do not agree? We are all trying to get the Palestinians to reach an accord and agree on a united stand.

[Cairo MENA in English at 2120 GMT on 24 May carries a report which is similar, with the following exception: The last three grafs appear in a different

order. Graf appearing as last graf of Cairo MENA Arabic version becomes graf seven in Cairo MENA English version, and grafs seven and eight of Cairo MENA Arabic version become grafs eight and nine.]

AL-AKHBAR Praises Relations With YAR

JN2405161988 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 May 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Cairo and Sanaa and Close Common Ties"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's visit to North Yemen, which began yesterday, falls within the framework of the continuous efforts he is exerting to bolster Arab ranks and unite the peoples and leaders of the Arab nation, especially after the restoration of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries and the need to turn Arab solidarity into a tangible reality and not a mere slogan that is reiterated every now and then.

Relations between Cairo and Sanaa have a special meaning and are based on close ties bolstered by an unforgettable history of joint struggle when the sons of Egypt rose to defend the Yemeni revolution in the early 1960's. These Egyptians did not spare their blood to support the Yemeni people and help them develop and progress. They also supported their independence. The Yemenis do not forget how the Egyptian experts, teachers, engineers, and others did their best for the good and prosperity of their brothers in the sisterly countries.

The talks Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will hold in Sanaa today will include numerous issues of great importance not only for bilateral relations, but also for Arab relations in general, particularly the basic issues which preoccupy the thinking of the region's peoples at present. These issues are headed by the Palestine question in light of the heroic uprising which has entered its 6th month in the occupied territories, and the destructive Gulf war and the foolish Iranian threats against the Arab states in the region, and in light of the concern of the two countries for security in the Red Sea and the need to draw up an Arab strategy to maintain security and peace in this important waterway.

Any understanding and cooperation among the Arab states is another step along the right path toward restoring real Arab solidarity and bolstering unity, which can achieve the aims and aspirations of every Arab who believes in his nation's causes.

Libya

Editor Comments on Egyptian-Algerian Ties

LD2305152988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 May (JANA)—The Arab affairs editor has commented as follows on the statement by the Egyptian president concerning what he termed the restoration of relations with Algeria: This statement reflects once again his self-aggrandizement at the expense of others by criticizing their conduct and minimizing their importance.

The Egyptian president, while talking about Egypt's dignity and faulting the Algerian position, tries, with self-aggrandizement, to give lessons in proper conduct to the brother officials of Algeria, as if he is demeaning that brotherly country which, by its well-known pan-Arab stands and its fighting history, is above the level implied in the Egyptian president's statement.

The only thing that can be understood for certain from this statement is that Algeria has to abide by the conditions dictated by the Egyptian Government and relinquish its dignity before that government will agree to restore relations with it.

Pilgrims Cited on Maltreatment by Saudis

LD2205163088 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, May 22, IRNA—A group of Libyan pilgrims recently back home from Mecca after performing Umra (the lesser pilgrimage) termed the Saudi regime's treatment towards them as "inhuman".

Pilgrim Salima al-Tahir, 50, told the weekly AL-JAMAHIRIYAH organ of the Libyan revolutionary committees that upon arrival at Jeddah airport she was arrested without any reason and detained for three hours.

"Saudi security agents interrogated me and even prevented me from performing ablution for the prayers," she said, adding "when I protested to the whole sordid affair I received a whiplash in answer."

"Are we non-believers that Saudi agents treat us like animals at the airport," asked a group of pilgrims. Another Libyan pilgrim said he had personally witnessed beating of aged Libyan pilgrims by Saudi agents in Medina.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH printed the pilgrims' accounts in its latest issue without any comments. Tripoli's stance against the issue which once again proved the anti-Islamic nature of the regime ruling Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and its inability to administer the two holy shrines, is still unknown.

It should be recalled, last May 11 Pakistani Muslims staged a demonstration in Islamabad against what they termed "the barbaric measures of the Saudi regime," who in a bid to justify its absurd restrictions on Iranian hajj pilgrims is resorting to various tricks including the obstruction of other Muslims from visiting Mecca.

Sudan

'Rebels' Reportedly Suffer Setbacks in Kordofan

'Great Number' Surrenders

JN2405174988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 24 (SUNA) — A great number of rebels have started to surrender and hand over their arms to the Armed Forces in the areas of Abu Jubayhah

and Abyei in southern Kordofan, an official source at Army General Command today said adding that the surrendered group was accomodated by the Armed Forces which started to establish a peace camp to all those who yield to the Armed Forces.

300 SPLA Rebels Killed

JN2405175188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1734 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Al-Ubayyd (Sudan), May 24 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces killed 300 rebels belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of John Garang and wounded and captured several others in a clash between the Armed Forces and the rebels recently in the border between the Upper Nile and Kordofan Regions.

A military source said here Tuesday the Sudanese Armed Forces had lost three men in the clash and destroyed 12 positions belonging to the rebels in the area.

He added that his army had seized large quantities of weapons, ammunition and military equipment.

The source pointed out that the Armed Forces had captured important documents, but he did not give details about them.

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN2505082588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 May (WAKH)—Vernon Walters, the U.S. President's envoy and U.S. representative at the United Nations, arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Muscat on a visit to the UAE within the framework of his current tour of a number of the region's states. He will hold talks with a number of senior UAE officials on current developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

Further on Visit by Iranian Oil Minister

Holds Official Talks

JN2305203388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1950 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 May (WAKH) — A round of official talks was held between the UAE side led by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, and the Iranian delegation led by Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iranian minister of petroleum. Dr al-'Utaybah has stated that the talks dealt with developments in the world oil market in light of OPEC's recent consultative meeting in Vienna on 28 April.

Dr al-'Utaybah also said that the two sides discussed coordination of the positions of the OPEC member states within the framework of preparations for the forthcoming conference of the organization scheduled to be held in Vienna on 8 June.

The two sides stressed the need for this conference to reach a collective agreement by the member states to unify the organization's position on the various topics to be discussed by the conference and to allow cooperation with non-OPEC countries to fix oil prices at the official level of $18 per barrel.

Received by Al-Qasimi

JN2405123188 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Dr Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council member and ruler of Sharjah, received at his palace today Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who is visiting the country. During the audience, a number of petroleum issues were discussed.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, UAE minister of state and president of Sharjah's Petroleum and Minerals Department, and Mostafa Haeri-Fumani, Iranian ambassador to the UAE, attended.

Meets Defense Minister

JN2405195888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1935 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Dubayy, 24 May (WAKH)—UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum received tonight Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who is currently visiting the UAE.

WAM said they discussed during the meeting the situation of the international oil market as well as the international efforts being exerted to rectify the problem created by differences in prices in this market.

Yemen Arab Republic

Egypt's Mubarak Departs Sanaa for Addis Ababa

NC2405093588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] Sana, 24 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Sana for Addis Ababa this morning following an official 3-day visit to the YAR. During his stay he held talks with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the Arab situation, regional issues, and Egyptian-Yemeni relations. [passage omitted]

President Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting at the presidential palace in the YAR capital prior to President Mubarak's departure. During the talks, which were also attended by members of the Egyptian and Yemeni delegations, a number of issues of mutual interest were reviewed. They also discussed the result of President Mubarak's visit to the YAR, which asserted the desire of the two countries to bolster Arab solidarity and promote friendship between Egypt and the YAR.

Salih, Al-Qadhdhafi Confer by Telephone

JN2405201488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] A telephone contact was held today between Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya. They discussed a number of bilateral issues between the two countries and the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions and issues of common interest.

President Sends Message on Nuclear-Free Zones

LD2305092288 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1544 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Berlin, 20 May (ADN)—In a message to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, Saddam Husayn expressed thanks for the invitation for Iraqi representatives to attend the International Meeting for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones in Berlin. The message says: "It is a pleasure for me to pay tribute on this occasion to your personal efforts to convene this important meeting and to your patronage of preparations for it. I wish you, Your Excellency, and the participants great success."

The president said that on various occasions, his country had declared its strong support for all efforts aimed at strengthening trust between peoples and states, based on the belief that this is indispensable in reaching a limitation of the arms race and thus reducing the huge dangers for mankind.

The message states: "The Republic of Iraq has at all times supported the initiatives for the creation of nuclear weapons-free zones in the world, because we believe that on the one hand such initiatives strengthen trust between states and, on the other hand, they help to strengthen and consolidate the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which we have signed. In this connection, we have supported the creation of zones of this type in the Middle East and Africa, in particular."

In conclusion, the Iraqi president points out that his country welcomes the agreement reached between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of intermediate-and shorter-range nuclear weapons and at the same time expresses the hope that this agreement will be extended to all nuclear weapons and to all states in possession of these weapons.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets YSP Central Committee Member

JN2405185988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received YSP Central Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq Sha'if who is currently visiting Iraq to participate in the world popular peace conference.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, ways to develop them between the two states and parties, developments of the situation in the region, Iranian aggression, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, the director of the Foreign Relations Department at the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the PDRY ambassador to Iraq.

Military Spokesman Replies to Iran on Cities War

JN2405131988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—The Iraqi military spokesman has announced that the Iranian regime will be the only party to shoulder the entire responsibility before God, peoples, and history if it reverts to shelling Iraqi cities. The spokesman said that the Iranian regime is placing itself in a dilemma that it cannot resolve. He added that Iraq remains the party most capable of teaching this regime the cruelest lessons.

This came in a statement to INA by 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, director of the Political Guidance Department at the Ministry of Defense, commenting on reports carried by IRNA quoting the Iranian War Information Office on Iran's intentions to resume the war of the cities and alleging that Iraq is continuing its air raids against Iranian cities.

The Iraqi military spokesman said that the Iranian statement, which was made by official sources, confirms that this regime is determined to reignite the war of the cities, again displaying total indifference to the interests of its people and to the destruction that might occur as a result of the devastating Iraqi deterrence, with which it is very familiar.

The spokesman affirmed that Iraq has honored its commitments, which were contained in the statement made by the official spokesman on 20 April regarding the observance of a moratorium on air and missile attacks against Iranian cities on the basis of the conditions contained in that statement. He added that Iraq has honored these commitments to end the war of the cities, while Iran has violated the principles through the perpetration of repeated aggression against Iraq's international borders and also through its daily shelling of Iraqi border cities and villages, especially Basra and the township of Darband-i Khan.

The military spoeksman provided details about Iran's daily shelling of Iraq's border cities, townships, and villages—namely, Basra, Darband-i Khan, Qal'at Dizah, Qarah Dagh, Abu al-Khasib, al-Sulaymaniyah, the township of Kolar, and the Bimalik residential complex.

The following is a list of the cities and townships subjected to Iranian shelling and the dates on which this shelling took place:

Darband-i Khan	23 April 1988
Qal'at Dizah, Qarah Dagh	24 April 1988
Basra City Center	26 April 1988
Darband-i Khan	26 April 1988
Darband-i Khan	28 April 1988
Darband-i Khan	3 May 1988

Darband-i Khan	6 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	8 May 1988
Qal'at Dizah	11 May 1988
Basra City Center	13 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	15 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	17 May 1988
Basra	21 May 1988
Al-Sulaymaniyah City Center	23 April 1988
Darband-i Khan	24 April 1988
Al-Sulaymaniyah City Center	26 April 1988
Basra City Center	27 April 1988
Basra	29 April 1988
Basra, Abu al-Khasib	4 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	7 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	9 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	11 May 1988
Al-Sulaymaniyah, town of Kolar	15 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	16 May 1988
Bimalik Residential Complex	20 May 1988
Darband-i Khan	23 May 1988

The military spokesman went on to say that despite Iraq's devastating supremacy in the war of the cities, Iraq maintained self-restraint. It issued several statements through the military spokesman and the Armed Forces General Command communiques warning the Iranian rulers of the consequences of this criminal behavior, which seeks to reignite the war of the cities, demonstrating total indifference to the interests of their peoples.

The spokesman said that Iraq also pointed out that the criminal Iranian practices constitute a violation of the principles according to which Iraq stopped its attacks on Iranian cities. He also referred to the catastrophes that may befall Iran when Iraq resumes the performance of its duties toward its citizens, their security, and property and begins to deal devastating strikes to Iranian cities using the Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missiles, the Iraqi Air Force, and other weapons.

The spokesman affirmed that the Iranian regime's pursuit of this criminal course will cause the destruction of its infrastructure and render it to shreds. May God deprive the Iranian rulers of His mercy as they fail to realize the extent of their collapse and as they have no sense of responsibility toward their peoples.

On 10 March, Iraq laid down five conditions for stopping the war of the cities. These conditions stipulated that the shelling operations carried out against Iraqi cities should be terminated; that Iran should end its artillery, air, and missile attacks against Iraqi cities and villages; that Iran should refrain from perpetrating any aggression against any Arab city; and that Iraq will resume its attacks against Iranian cities if Iran carries out any aggression against its borders and tries to invade its territory. These codnitions made a distinction between purely residential targets and economic targets, which are related to the war effort.

Since then, Iraq has been calling upon Iran to honor these principles and conditions. However, Iran violated these principles and resumed its attacks. It carried out an aggression that resulted in its occupation of the Iraqi city of Halabjah. Furthermore, Iran shelled Baghdad with missiles, thereby reigniting the war of the cities on 13 March. Iraq also stopped its attacks on Iranian cities during Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Iraq, which materialized in the beginning of April. However, Iran failed to benefit from this Iraqi initiative and bombed Kirkuk and Baghdad with missiles, thereby reigniting the war of the cities once again on 3 April.

Iraq also stopped its bombing of Iranian cities, including Tehran, with the Iraqi-made Al-Husayn missiles during the Iranian elections, which were held during the 1st week of April. Despite all this, Iran continued to attack Iraqi cities, villages, and townships, thus prompting Iraq to defend itself and resume the war of the cities.

In a statement issued on 20 April, the Iraqi military spokesman announced that Iraq will stop its attacks against Iranian cities provided that the Iranian side honors the five principles announced on 10 March. The spokesman said that the moratorium on attacks against Iranian cities seeks "to give the Iranian regime another chance to reconsider all aspects of its stand toward Iraq and to seriously think of relinquishing its aggressive course."

The spokesman stressed that Iran will be faced with a lightning response and that the Iranian regime will be held responsible once again for the reignition of the war of the cities.

Iraq possesses Iraqi-made long-range missiles that have proved to be successful in hitting their long-range Iranian targets, including Tehran, Qom, and Tabriz. Iraq also announced that it manufactured other missiles named Al- 'Abbas, which have a range of 900 km. This leaves the distant Iranian cities at the mercy of Iraqi missiles.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,188

JN2405165488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 May 88

[Communique No 3,188 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our Air Force carried out 60 combat missions inflicting further losses on the enemy. After flying these missions, they returned safely to base, praised be God.

2. At 0626 [0226 GMT] today, two enemy F-5 planes attempted to penetrate our international borders in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. The brave men of our antiaircraft units confronted them and managed to down one, which was seen falling in flames inside enemy territory and before the eyes of our heroic soldiers. The other plane fled. Blessed be the men of our field antiaircraft units in the heroic III Army Corps sector.

3. A courageous force from our units in the I Army Corps northern sector raided a number of enemy positions in front of them. The force courageously managed to kill 12 scoundrels and destroy 1 heavy machinegun and a number of infantry positions. Then, the force returned safely to base. Elsewhere in the same sector, 18 enemy personnel were killed; 5 infantry positions and 2 vehicles, including one carrying a 106-mm gun were destroyed; and 2 ammunition dumps were blown up.

4. One enemy soldier was killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. Furthermore, two ammunition dumps were blown up, three positions of various types were destroyed, and one soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One force of our units launched a successful raid against the scoundrels in their positions in front of one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. With accurate fire support, the force managed to storm and destroy the enemy positions, killing seven enemy personnel. Having carried out this raid, the force returned safely to base.

6. One ammunition dump was blown up and one machinegun destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Also, one infantry position and a machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 May 1988

Communique No 3,189

JN2505081088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0743 GMT 25 May 88

[Communique No 3,189 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O sons of our glorious nation. O lofty men of the valiant Armed Forces.

It is a new day to be recorded in the eternal annals of Al-Qadisiyah and to be held high as a flag. It is a day on which the lofty Iraqis achieved victory for all Arabs over the enemies of God and humanity, the criminal and expansionists in Iran. It is a new day of liberation and the destruction of the aggressor forces which defiled our chaste land.

On this day, Wednesday, 25 May 1988, at 0930 [0530 GMT], the lofty men of the Armed Forces attacked the enemy in the Shalamjah sector encouraged by all Iraqis and all the zealous Arabs in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah" [We rely upon God] operations to expel the enemy from our chaste land after destroying the empty heads which showed indifference to the teachings and values of God, peoples, and humanity. Initial reports of the operation please friends and anger enemies. Until it is time to give you further information we hope that God will grant us great victory. God is great and an ignominy to the defeatists.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command Command, 25 May 1988

Communique No 3,190

JN2505105588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1025 GMT 25 May 88

[Communique No 3,190 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Passage omitted]

Stemming from our commitment toward our people and homeland, and in order to impose the will of peace, to deprive the aggressors of the economic pillars that help them continue the war, at 1000 [0600 GMT] today a large number of our aircraft climbed the sky and flew over 1,000 km from our international border to reach the extremely important Neka power station in northern Iraq, that has a capacity of 1,760 megawatts, and pour the wrath of God and the Iraqis on it and turn it into rubble and ashes.

The Iranian regime must realize before it is too late that its defeat on all battlefields has become a clear and established fact, and that the best this regime can do is resort to right and logic and to accept peace.

Otherwise, we will continue to destroy its strongholds and to deal more painful blows until it desists from tyranny and realizes that the only way to save itself is through its submission to the will of right.

Let the tyrants know that the homeland of a deep-rooted civilization and honorable aspirations led by hero Saddam Husayn will bow its head only to God. Glory to the men of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God the supporter of the believers. He is the best helper.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 May 1988

Communique No 3,191

JN2505125688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1217 GMT 25 May 88

[Communique No 3,191 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Subsequent to the General Command Communique No 3,189 issued at 1135 [0735 GMT] today, the lofty men of the Presidential Guard Forces and the III Army Corps at 0930 today, relying on God, launched a lightning attack under the banner of the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah [we relied upon God] operations against the occupying enemy forces opposite our forces' positions in the III Army Corps sector.

Our forces were able to implement the first and second stages of their offensive, thereby liberating the Jasim and Du'ayji rivers, the southern tip of the Fish Lake, the Tawilah Island, and the Bubiyan and Kut al-Sawadi border posts.

Our valiant forces began to implement the third and last stage of the plan to finally expel the enemy outside the international borders. We will broadcast the glad tidings of the final victory to our great people in a subsequent communique, God willing. God is great. Down with losers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 May

Iranian Helicopters Downed

JN2505104988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 25 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1010 [0610 GMT] and at 1045 today, while the brave helicopter pilots were carrying out their duties in the I Army Corps northern sector, they observed two enemy Bell-214 helicopters.

They fired at them and shot them down. The first helicopter was seen falling in flames over enemy units, while the second helicopter blew up in the air and its wreckage was scattered.

May God bless the noble helicopter pilots. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 25 May 1988

Spokesman Denies Bombings

JN2505132788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—The Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that the Iraqi Air Force today bombed Iranian residential areas in the cities of Sar Dasht and Mazandaran.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that these Iranian allegations are false and completely baseless. He added these Iranian tricks are only aimed at finding an excuse for Iran's shelling of Iraqi residential areas on the one hand, and covering up the defeats the Iraqi Armed Forces are inflicting on them at the battlefronts on the other.

Shomron Confirms Air Raid on 3 Lebanese Targets

TA2505123688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, has said that Air Force planes today attacked three objectives located in southern Lebanese villages. He added that IDF units are providing limited artillery and tank assistance to a military operation in the security strip. The chief of staff made these comments in a meeting with foreign reporters in Jerusalem, and his remarks are cited by a REUTER correspondent.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that UNIFIL headquarters indicates that the IDF and South Lebanese Army operation is still under way. According to foreign correspondents in southern Lebanon, the operation is concentrated in the area north of Al-Nabatiyah in Al-Luwayzah, Sujud and Mlikh, three villages that house Hizballah members. According to the reporters' accounts, Air Force aircraft and helicopters raided these villages. The area has been subjected to heavy artillery shelling since last night.

A spokesman for the Lebanese police in Al-Nabatiyah said that Hizballah has instructed its members to leave the villages and avoid casualties.

Attacks Aimed at Hizballah

TA2505151288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, said the South Lebanese Army [SLA] is carrying out searches in Al-Luwayzah on the edge of the security zone where the Hizballah has concentrated, while the IDF is providing them only with firepower assistance. Gen Shomron said air force planes attacked three targets in the village this morning, while the IDF provided the SLA with limited artillery and tank assistance from within the security zone. He said the IDF was in this way helping the SLA to clear the area of the Hizballah.

In an address to the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, the chief of staff explained that the extremist Shi'ite organization recently set up several concentrations on the edge of the security zone from which it left for attacks on the zone and the Israeli border. [passage omitted]

Soviets To Grant Visas to Delegation in June

TA2405171588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Text] The Israeli consular delegation will be able to depart for the Soviet Union only after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit which will be held in Moscow at the end of May. The visas for the Israelis—five consular level diplomats—will apparently arrive the beginning of June. Two months ago the Soviets approved an Israeli consular delegation visit, similar to the Soviet consular delegation which has been in Israel for more than 8 months.

The Soviets initially agreed to allow the Israelis to examine the house which served as the Israeli Embassy until 1967 and on which Israel has been paying rent ever since. The Soviets also agreed to let the Israelis supervise the Dutch Embassy consular section in Moscow while they issue Israeli visas to Soviet Jews wanting to leave the Soviet Union.

Israel, in return, conveyed through the Dutch Embassy a more comprehensive request, asking that the Israeli delegation be permitted to work in the embassy building issuing the visas. In several meetings held since then between Israeli and Soviet representatives, the technical misunderstandings have been clarified, with Moscow saying that the delegation's mandate cannot be extended beyond its initial approval.

Today, in a meeting in Geneva between Vladimir Terasov and Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, it was determined that there are no longer differences of opinion regarding the nature of the Israeli delegation's work. Its members will adhere to the original Soviet mandate. There are also no changes regarding the number of the delegation members or their names. The visas, to repeat, will arrive the beginning of June.

Novik on Talks With Soviets on Peace Plan, Ties

TA2505064888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 88

[Telephone interview with Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, by moderators Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[Text] [Dan] The Israeli consular delegation will leave for Moscow in a few days, following the Israeli Government's decision to accept the limited mandate tendered to the delegation by the Soviet authorities. Good morning to you, Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser who has just returned from Geneva where he held talks with the Soviets.

[Novik] Good morning.

[Dan] I think we have been rather humiliated, if you compare our expectations with what we were ultimately forced to accept. Do you not think so?

[Novik] Absolutely not. It is a pity that the matter is being presented in such a misleading way. In fact, the mandate approved by the Soviets, and which they had in fact approved as far back as 19 January in a meeting I held in Helsinki with the very same Terasov, was precisely the mandate we applied for, word for word. The Israeli Foreign Ministry relayed our request through the Soviet consular delegation staying in Israel, and the

Soviets passed it on to the most senior ranks there. They consider this a sensitive issue, despite the fact that our delegation is made up of low-level diplomats, and this is the reason the matter was dealt with by their highest ranks. In the end they approved the precise mandate we ourselves had requested.

[Friedman] I think we also wanted our delegation to issue visas to Soviet Jews who want to immigrate to Israel.

[Novik] We want an embassy in Moscow, too! The question is not what we want, but what we asked for. Our request was formulated in such a way as to consider what can be attained at this stage, and was based on the assumption that just as the Soviet delegation had come for 3 months, had its visas extended, and was able to pursue new subjects, our delegation will also be granted an entry permit for a limited period, after which it will gradually be able to deal with new issues without any pressures, in accordance with our mutual interests.

Now, what happened was that the visa requests were submitted with an accompanying explanation, which the Soviets took to be an expansion of the initial mandate request. If we could hold regular face-to-face talks with the Soviets through embassies in Israel and in Moscow, none of these misunderstandings would have arisen. Since our meetings are not held on a regular basis, it took 2 months for the issue to be settled.

[Dan] As things stand today, are they still given to interpretations or to extensions beyond the oddly sounding definition of examining the Israeli property in Moscow and supervising the visas issued to Soviet Jews through the Netherlands?

[Novik] No, Israel and the USSR both agree that the delegation will arrive in Moscow in accordance with the mandate we had formulated and requested, which is viewing the Israeli Embassy building...

[Dan, interrupting] Is this what you term the Israeli property in Moscow?

[Novik] It is not defined as Israeli property in Moscow, but we have a right to inspect the building for which we have been paying rent for many years.

[Friedman] Do we need a five-member delegation for this?

[Novik] I assume that just as the Soviets need six, seven, or eight people to stay here for 10 months to inspect three or four Soviet plots in Israel, we need six people to inspect one building for 4 months.

[Dan] What do you think they will do beyond this?

[Novik] This is precisely the point. It is perfectly clear to everyone that this is a case of dipping one's toes in the water to test whether it is hot or cold.

[Friedman] What is, in fact, the temperature of the water?

[Novik] I do not know yet. We will not be able to know how the delegation is received there until it actually arrives.

[Friedman] You recently held a long series of talks, the latest of which was with the diplomat Terasov in Geneva. The main topic of these talks was not the consular delegation, but the Soviet Union's view of its role in the Middle East peace process. At least one camp in Israel claims that no great revelations emerged from these talks.

[Novik] First of all, I am glad you put the matter in the right perspective. It is true that peace was the main topic of our talks. With all respect to the consular delegation, which is important, I do believe peace is even more important. Second, it would be a gross exaggeration to talk of a breakthrough after each meeting. There has been no breakthrough, only a very serious and profound discussion of each component of the political process, the peace process, and the international conference.

I did not discover that a consensus had been reached with the Soviets or that the Soviet Union and the United States had managed to bridge all their differences, but I did observe a most earnest effort on the part of the Soviets to understand the reasons for our objections to some of their positions. Furthermore, they have showed creativity in searching for formulas that will allow us to accept some of the components of the process. We had a very serious discussion on several such elements. Naturally, I must first brief the foreign minister in detail, having had the opportunity to give him only an abbreviated version of the talks. But I believe that the bottom line is that the Soviet Union treats our reservations very seriously. There is no cynicism or disregard, and there is a desire to try to bridge the differences.

[Dan] Another question about the consular delegation. Will it be able to meet with Jews or deal with the problem of dropouts: Jews who leave the Soviet Union for countries other than Israel?

[Novik] We did not include the dropout issue in our request. As for contacts with Jews, the delegation will not be restricted in any way whatsoever.

[Friedman] Perhaps another word on the subject of peace. The Reagan-Gorbachev summit is about to start in Moscow. Do you expect that meeting to result in any developments that will help Shultz promote the peace process during his visit here?

[Novik] It is hard to say. It would be very presumptuous on my part to try to say that having heard the Americans and the Soviets, we are in a better position than they are to judge whether their stands are bridgeable. I must admit I think their differences are indeed bridgeable, but the matter would require some decisions at the highest levels—not merely in Washington where this is easy, but also in Moscow. The Soviet intentions appear to be serious, but only time will tell whether their intentions find their way to the operative aspects of the disputed issues.

[Friedman] Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, thank you very much.

[Novik] You are welcome.

Shamir 'Willing' To Hold Talks With Soviets

TA2405165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir views the Soviets as partners to peace, saying that Israel has all the desire and reasons to live in peace with the Soviets.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We have always wanted to maintain friendly relations with the USSR, both because it is one of the superpowers, and because of the special reason that millions of our brethren live there. We would like to speak with the Soviets and discuss the fate of Soviet Jews with them.

[Unidentified correspondent] Still, do you not see any condition for entering negotiations with them in whatever framework?

[Shamir] Well, I am always willing to talk and discuss matters. I told them once already, however, when I met with Mr Gromyko a few years ago, that if they want to participate in diplomatic moves in the Middle East, they should first resume diplomatic relations with Israel and change their policy on permitting Soviet Jews to leave. [end recording]

Shamir Claims Newsmen Held for Security Offenses

TA2405173188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear today that journalists detained in Israel lately have been held due to offenses against state security and not due to their work as journalists. Mr Shamir said this to a delegation of the national union of Israeli journalists, which met with him on the eve of the world journalists federation convention in the Netherlands. The members of the delegation protested to the prime minister about the difficulties involved in covering incidents in the territories.

Rocard Promises Improved Bilateral Relations

TA2405142288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Michel Rocard, the new French prime minister, has said he will personally act toward improving relations with Israel. Our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts, reports that Rocard said this during his first meeting with Israeli Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer. Rocard also said that France will pursue the Middle East policy set by President Mitterrand. This cautious and balanced policy states that no new initiative will be launched without preliminary consultations with Israel.

MAPAM Leader, Romania's Ceausescu Hold Talks

TA2505091788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 May 88 p 1

[Report by Shlomo Slutzky]

[Text] In yesterday's meeting between MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot and Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu, Granot outlined MAPAM's plan for peace in the Middle East as expressed in the political resolutions adopted 2 weeks ago during the party's 10th conference.

The Romanian leader was interested in the resolutions adopted by MAPAM, which is the first Zionist party ready to negotiate with the PLO if the latter declares acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and ceases terrorist activities. During the meeting, special emphasis was placed on the good relations that exist between the Romanian Communist Party and MAPAM, and between Romania and Israel in general. The parties expressed the hope that these relations will be expanded to many other areas for the benefit of the two nations, and for peace, detente, and understanding between nations.

RSA Black Leader Attends Africa Day Fete

TA2405174588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Dr Nthato Motlana, the black leader from Soweto in the RSA, said there is no room for comparing Jewish-Arab relations in Israel and the problem of racism in the RSA. Motlana spoke with our correspondent Gid'on Remez during a celebration of Africa Day at the president's residence in Jerusalem. He said that during his visit in Israel he has learned that the RSA's black community has a distorted picture of the situation here. At the same time, he said that the limited sanctions Israel imposed on the RSA have had little effect, and that a much more effective boycott is necessary for black public opinion to believe Israel's intentions.

Africa Day, which marks the OAU's 25th anniversary, was celebrated at the president's residence with the participation of President Herzog, Knesset Speaker

Shlomo Hilel, and Acting Foreign Minister 'Ezer Weizman. About 130 students from 23 African countries who attend schools in Israel participated. Also present were the Ivory Coast and Liberian ambassadors, who extended greetings on behalf of African countries and lauded Israel's contribution to the development of the African Continent.

Shamir Favors Early Elections 'in Principle'

TA2405154788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to support early elections in principle, among other things in order to save the public a nerve-racking process. Yitzhaq Shamir visited Yoqne'am 'Illit today. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] Prime Minister Shamir today was briefed on the problems of Yoqne'am 'Illit and was asked to approve special development status for the town. After being granted honorary citizenship in the town, Mr Shamir talked about the issue of early elections. He said he is in favor of early elections, but that this has to be decided together by the Likud and the Alignment.

[Shamir] I believe that everything is already clear to the public and within the parties. We have 4 months to go until the elections. If it were possible to shorten the process it would have been advisable to do so to save time and also to save the public some racked nerves.

[Mandel] The prime minister was also asked whether there is any change in the Soviet position regarding the international conference on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

[Shamir] So far we have not heard about any substantial changes. Perhaps there have been changes in tone or nuance, but I think we should wait for the summit. Perhaps something better will emerge from there. [end recording]

2 More DEREKH HANITZOTZ Editors Indicted

TA2505073388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem District prosecutor this morning submitted an amended indictment in the case of DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK]. The new indictment adds Asaf Adiv and Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat to the previously charged editors Mikhal Schwartz and Roni Ben-Efrat. Adiv and Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat have been remanded in custody until 12 June. The charges against Ben-Efrat include, among others, possession of propaganda material.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that the 29 prosecution witnesses include 17 Shin Bet members. Hadas Lahav, previously one of the defendants, will be among the prosecution witnesses. She is to be released this morning. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

1 Killed; 'Terror' Ring Caught

TA2505044488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Security forces are on the alert in the territories today for any sign of Palestinian unrest; this on the memorial day for assassinated PLO leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Palestinians have been called on to mark the day with a general strike. Last night a Gaza Strip resident was killed in the Al-Burayj refugee camp. With more, over to reporter Steve Rodan:

Forty days after PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir was assassinated in Tunis, Palestinian activists hope his death has not been forgotten in the territories. They have called for a general strike, as well as clashes with Israeli soldiers. Officials will be closely watching how the strike call will affect the reopening of schools in Judaea and Samaria.

By last night, however, the first serious clash was reported. Soldiers entered the Al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip to make arrests late last night, and military sources said the soldiers came under attack from Arab residents. One man who tried to grab the rifle of a soldier was shot and killed. The dead man was identified as Hamad Sa'di al-Lulu, age 45.

The army imposed curfews this morning on Al-Burayj and Al-Shati', as well as the Gaza neighborhoods of Al-Shaja'iyah, Daraj, and Shabura. Nonresidents are barred from entering the refugee camps of Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, Khan Yunus, as well as the towns of 'Abasan and Bani Suhaylah.

In Judaea and Samaria, security forces announced the capture of a terror ring suspected of being behind several firebomb attacks on Israeli vehicles in the past month. The army spokesman said the two suspects are residents of the village of 'Ayn al-Dik near Jericho. The two Arabs were allegedly responsible for hurling several firebombs at Israeli civilian and military vehicles in Jericho, including the attack on an Egged bus on 10 May and on a military vehicle on 12 May. Security forces are also investigating whether the two suspects are connected to other attacks around Jericho. So far, the houses of the suspects were sealed off last night.

Update on Incidents 25 May

TA2505132488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration announced today that two residents of Shuwaykah who died several days ago were hit by a Molotov cocktail and not by IDF fire. Our correspondent Arye Gus states that according to a pathological report, pieces of a firebomb were found in the vehicle that the two were travelling in. Security forces are looking for the person who threw the bomb. All the village men were gathered in the local school yesterday for identification and investigation.

Last night, two Molotov cocktails were hurled at a bus in the village, wounding a young girl who was transferred to the hospital.

A curfew was placed on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem at noon because of disturbances, our correspondent Arye Gus reports.

There were disturbances and stone throwing incidents in other areas of Judaea and Samaria. Stones smashed the windshield of a bus in Qalqilyah. There was a symbolic funeral in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm for Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], as well as stone throwing incidents.

There is a full strike in the Gaza Strip today, and several disturbances were reported. There were also several incidents in Jerusalem.

Leaflet No 17 Detailed

TA2505113788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] In the Gaza district it was relatively quiet this morning. From Gaza, reporter Steve Rodan says there were some disturbances but no serious clashes:

[Begin recording] Leaflet No 17 calls for a general strike and the slogans on the wall call for violence, but so far the 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip are marking the 40th day of the assassination of PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir in relative calm. There are incidents of stone throwing and burning of tires, especially in Rafah, but military sources do not report any serious clashes with soldiers or injuries. [passage omitted]

Few Arab laborers left the Strip to their jobs in Israel this morning, most stores are closed, and there are virtually no Gaza motorists on the roads. But the memorial for Khalil al-Wazir, who grew up in Gaza City, was far more quiet then expected. Most Arab workers arrived to their jobs at the Civilian Administration, schools are open, and there are again long lines of Gaza residents waiting to receive their new identity cards. But the day is still young, and security forces know it. This is Steve rodan in Gaza City. [end recording]

There was a full commercial strike in Judaea and Samaria today to mark the 40th day after the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. The strike was called by extremist organizations in the territories and the so-called united national leadership in leaflet No 17. However, studies at schools went on normally and attendance was very high. Public transportation is operating and Arabs working in Israel went to their jobs.

Poll Shows Right Strengthening, Left Weakening

TA1305151988 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 May 88 p A1

[Text] A strengthening of the right-wing bloc versus a weakening of the left-wing bloc emerged in last week's Dahaf Institute election poll directed by Dr Mina Tzemah.

A comparison with the April poll shows the Likud up slightly, and Tehiya, Citizens' Rights Movement [CRM], and the Liberal Center, down. The Labor Party maintained its stability at the top of the list.

Another interesting finding is that the "floating votes" (those who are undecided) represent about 20 percent of those polled.

The poll was conducted during the first week of May on a representative sample of 1,210 people who were individually interviewed. The poll did not include the Arab sector, and therefore the figures for the parties with a majority of Arab support should be viewed cautiously.

The question asked was: If elections were held today, who would you vote for? (The answers are quoted in Knesset seats. The results of the April poll are in brackets.)

Labor Party	44	(44)
Likud	39	(37)
MAPAM	2	(2)
Tehiya	7	(8)
CRM	4	(5)
Tzomet	2	(2)
Liberal Center	2	(3)
NRP	5	(5)
HADASH, Progressive List For Peace	7	(6)
SHAS	4	(4)
Agudat Yisra'el	2	(2)
KAKH	2	(2)
Total	59	61

The results show that 20 percent of those polled are undecided. An analysis of the "floating votes" indicates that about 25 percent tend to favor the right wing, while 20 percent tend to support the left. A similar tendency exists among youngsters who were not eligible voters in the previous elections.

Columnist on Shultz 'Retreat' From Commitment
JN2105124188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 May 88 p 14

[Salamah 'Ukur article in "Issue and Opinion" column: "Has Shultz Retreated From the Objective of His Mission?"]

[Text]It seems that Shutlz began to retreat from his pledge or commitment to continue his efforts for a regional peace settlement. It also seems that his enthusiasm and determination, which appeared stubborn in his previous tour, began to cool off gradually.

In his meeting with some Arab newspaper correspondents and news agencies in Washington, Shultz' retreat from this commitment appeared clear in more than one case. He said: "His efforts do not aim at achieving a settlement during the era of the present administration—the Reagan era." He also said that these efforts might help lay down the foundation on which the coming administration can base its plans and moves." He also said: "The important thing is to leave an opportunity for those who will come next so that they will have a basis for their action."

Reflecting this retreat in general terms very clearly, Shultz said: "The issue is not what the United States can do, but what the involved regional parties can do. Those parties, not America, are in need of tranquility and stability."

It has become clear that Shultz has also relinquished his proposals. Otherwise, where are the phases on whose bases he distributed his proposals—the phases that begin in the 1st half of this year? If Shultz will not embark on a new regional tour on 3 June we will dare say that he will have finally withdrawn his proposals. What does Shultz mean when he says: "The involved parties should present proposals for a peaceful settlement instead of thinking about who wil fire the first bullet." Therefore, he is calling for new proposals instead of thinking of resorting to war.

In any case, we are not in a hurry to issue a final judgment on Shultz' proposals and mission, although we know since the beginning that they are not serious and they only aim at aborting the uprising in the occupied territory and saving Israel from its grinding crisis. All the Arabs are aware of this fact. There is no doubt that the Arabs will discuss it and adopt a united, firm Arab stand on this fact in the coming Arab summit. Whether Shultz comes to the region before or after the Arab summit, we do not expect a dramatic development in his proposals or even in the entire U.S. regional role.

The Reagan administration is now preoccupied with the coming U.S. presidential elections. The Reagan administration announced itself that it is not ready to pressure Israel to adopt even a flexible stand on the Shultz proposals. This issue should also be discussed in the coming Arab summit. We should say finally that the pressing pan-Arab mission is, first, to support the uprising and provide all the requirements and components for its continuation and escalation; second, to acheive a serious and responsible Arab readiness to confront possibilities to which Israel could resort to rid itself of the difficult dilemma; and third, to prepare a strategic plan to regain the occupied Arab territories and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians. As of now, the wager on the Shultz proposals or on the U.S. role should be reconsidered.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on Shamir's 'Negative Attitude'
JN2005090588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 May 88 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Yitzhaq Shamir—A Constant Negative Attitude and an Inflexible Mentality"]

[Text] At a time when most world states care for the success of comprehensive and complete peace in the Middle East through settling the Arab-Israeli conflict by holding an international peace conference with full powers—since the continuation of this conflict will result in ramifications that will once again kindle hostilities, whose extent no one knows—the stand of the Israeli enemy's prime minister emerges as a large obstacle condemned by numerous parties, most recently in the U.S. criticism, which described Shamir's stand as a constant negative attitude that rejects new ideas and obstructs any realistic opportunity for peace.

World states, except for Israel and its ally, the United States, view the convening of an international peace conference as a necessity to move out of the serious situation imposed by both Israeli intransigence and U.S. bias toward it.

If Yitzhaq Shamir, by opposing any opportunity for peace, tries to enhance his position among the extremist Israelis, he will violate the logic of history and experience the delusions of the Zionist concept, which includes violence, expansion, and racism.

Yitzhaq Shamir and his party are preoccupied with outdated and deluded concepts, by which they try to overlook the current situation in the occupied territories as well as its realities represented by the brave popular revolution. This revolution rejects the occupation and its repressive policy as well as the disavowal of the Palestinian people's national rights, the obliteration of their national identity, and the destruction of their economic institutions.

The Israeli prime minister strangely mixes his party ideas and aspirations on the one hand and the political norms that he can only view through his own narrow-minded concept on the other. The U.S. Administration is the first strategic ally of Israel. It supports and feeds Israel and enables it to continue its aggression and challenges against the Arab nation. Hence, how can

Yitzhaq Shamir describe this U.S. policy as interference in Israeli affairs unless we fully understand that any attempt by the United States to end its adoption of the Israeli concept—imposed by extremist Jewish groups—is actually an interference in Israeli affairs.

Attacking the concept and march of peace is a continued Israeli deed, which is expressed everyday by the ruling Israeli political establishment with its two prominent parties, the Likud and Labor. This continued attack aims to cancel the role of other Israeli political and party forces, which try to express themselves amid the escalating divisions inside the Israeli political and party establishments. These divisions are growing in two main directions:

First, rationalizing the extremist approach, expressed through the repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories, and providing an opportunity to listen to the voice of peace.

Second, exploiting the political and sectarian extremism, including the exportation of the ongoing Israeli crisis outside the limits of Israeli control either by launching direct aggression—as is the case in southern Lebanon—or by making feeble threats, promises, and remarks and pursuing intimidation and terrorist methods—as the Israeli news media do both in the region and in the international forums after the Israeli image has been tarnished before world public opinion as a result of the condemned Israeli practices against the unarmed Palestinian people on the latter's own territory.

It is obvious that the Israeli crisis, which is clear to both the Israelis themselves and the whole world, can be resolved neither by exporting war or making hot and accusatory statements nor by disavowing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights through a continued rejection of the peace march and a call for the fait accompli policy, which maintains the gains of occupation and prevents its termination.

However, there is a continued wager on the Arab stand, whose unification will create a new situation, which cannot be circumvented by the Israeli challenges. There is also a continued wager on the sincere international approach, which was expressed by many states, organizations, and parties in the world. Meanwhile, there is also a wager in Israel itself that the voices of the Israeli political and party forces should be loud. The extremist Israeli right wing, along with the U.S. right wing biased toward it, continue to lower and curb these voices and turn a deaf ear to their appeals.

Report Releases Remittance, Aid, Trade Figures

JN2105133788 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 May 88 p 3

[Text] Jordanian expatriate remittances in 1987 were 320 million Jordanian Dinars [JD] against JD 414.5 million in 1986, according to an economic report just released. The amount of foreign economic assistance and grants-in-aid to the Jordanian Government fell from JD 241 million in 1986 to JD 205 million in 1987, according to the annual report of the Bank of Jordan. As a result, savings in the services balance were JD 253 million in 1987 compared with JD 338 million in 1986.

The combination of the improvement in the trade balance and the decline in the services and foreign aid balance had the effect of raising the current account deficit from JD 16 million in 1986 to JD 75 million in 1987. The value of Jordan's industrial exports in Feburary was JD 3,334,717 lower than in January [year not specified]. Jordanian exports in January 1988 were 111 percent higher than in January 1987. There has been an appreciable increase in the volume of exports to the United States, followed by the UAE, Sudan, Lebanon, and the Asian continent. The amount of exports to Iraq has jumped by 256 percent. The value of Jordanian exports to EC countries has increased by 66 percent, and to Syria by 50 percent. By contrast, Jordanian exports to Saudi Arabia and Egypt declined from January 1987 to January 1988 by 52 percent and 89 percent respectively.

There has been an increase in Jordan's exports of leather goods, furniture, prefab kitchens, wrapping paper, plastics, fertilizer, phosphate, potash, chemical products, printing equipment, paper, knitwear, engineering and supply construction equipment, and a decrease in the agricultural and medical sectors. Exports in February 1988 were up 260 percent over those of February 1987, increasing appreciably to Asian, european countries and Tunisia. Exports to Iraq were up 555 percent. There was also an increase in exports to the YAR, the UAE, and Kuwait. Exports to Saudi Arabia were up by 35 percent, having been on the decline in January 1988. Jordanian exports to Bahrain, Syria and Qatar have also declined. Exports to Egypt and North American nations [as published] were down by 44 percent and 39 percent respectively.

Further Reportage on Israeli, SLA Operations

Forces Advancing

NC2505074788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from the South, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] advanced in the direction of Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning along two lines: 'Aramta-Al-Luwayzah-Mlikh and Al-Radar-Jabal Safi. Israeli helicopters are providing cover while combing the area. According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, 'Ayn Buswar, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim at 0600. Ten minutes later the aircraft bombarded the extremists' positions.

Around 0700 approximately 300 SLA soldiers, supported by tanks and mechanized vehicles, advanced along the 'Aramta, Al-Radar and Jabal Safi axes in the direction of Al-Luwayzah and Mlikh. The SLA soldiers controlled extremists' positions in Mlikh. They are currently advancing inside Al-Luwayzah toward the outskirts of Jarju'. SLA troops are supported by helicopters combing the area.

According to SLA sources, its soldiers have suffered no casualties, while casualties have been reported among the extremists.

Hizballah has issued a statement saying that Israeli warplanes have been shelling resistance positions in Jabal Safi since 0600. Meanwhile, the statement adds, an advance attempt on Al-Luwayzah is being monitored.

Clash With Amal Forces

NC2505093888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0906 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the South has reported that Israeli enemy forces and their agents launched a wide-scale attack under heavy artillery cover at 0730 today. The artillery bombardment included the areas of Al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Buswar, Mazra'at Halabtah, Jba', Jarju', 'Arab Salim, and Al-Nabi Safi. The bombardment was preceded by mock raids by enemy warplanes, which dropped smoke bombs over the area.

Our correspondent reports that the occupation forces are using fragmentation bombs to shell the villages. Ferocious battles are now raging between the enemy's forces and the Amal Movement, which is repulsing attempts by the occupation forces to advance toward the towns of Al-Luwayzah and Jarju'. Various types of weapons are being used in these battles. The Amal Movement has declared a general alert in the area.

Later reports indicate that Israeli warplanes have carried out new air raids on Al-Luwayzah and its environs.

'Ferocious Battles' Raging

NC2505125788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces launched a wide-scale attack under heavy artillery cover at 0730 today. The artillery bombardment included the areas of Al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Buswar, Mazra'at Halabtah, Jba', Jarju', Arab Salim, Al-Nabi Safi, and Mlikh. Ferocious battles are raging between men of the resistance and the Israeli enemy forces in these areas. [passage omitted]

An Amal military source has stated: The Israeli enemy forces and their agent Lahd militias have been launching a wide-scale attack under heavy artillery cover since 0730 today. They are using cluster and fragmentation bombs in their attack against the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. The artillery shelling included Al-Luwayzah, Jba', Jarju', Arab Salim, 'Ayn Buswar, Al-Nabi Safi, and Mazra'at Halabtah. Israeli warplanes, in the meantime, are conducting mock air raids, and a large number of helicopters are flying over the area, dropping poisonous smoke bombs. The Movement's fighters are heroically resisting the attack. Ferocious battles involving the use of various weapons are taking place.

The source added: The Movement's command has ordered the dispatch of more forces to the battlefield, where battles are continuing, particularly in the areas of Al-Luwayzah and Jarju', where hand-to-hand fighting is taking place. [passage omitted]

The NNA correspondent in Al-Nabatiyah has reported that agent Lahd's artillery pounded the towns of 'Ayn Buswar, Al-Luwayzah, and Jarju' at 0640, when Israeli warplanes dropped thermal balloons on these areas. [passage omitted] Fragmentation bombs continued to land on the towns of Jarju', Jba', and 'Ayn Buswar until 1230. Israeli helicopters are still flying over the hills.

A spokesman for the Islamic resistance has told AFP that the Israeli Air Force raided a Hizballah position in Jabal Safi. The spokesman affirmed that Israeli units advanced in the direction of Al-Luwayzah village, where fierce clashes ensued between the Israeli soldiers and the resistance fighters.

Large numbers of Israeli reinforcements proceeded to the central sector yesterday, and Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over the southern coast between Sidon and Tyre last night.

A security source in Tyre confirmed that a large mechanized force, consisting of 45 vehicles and tanks and about 600 men, crossed the border this morning. The same source said that about 500 soldiers riding in 50 military jeeps, 24 APC's, 4 Merkava tanks, and 10 other vehicles equipped with special 175-mm guns have also crossed the border.

Clash With Hizballah

NC2505161988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] Hundreds of shells have fallen on Jba', Kafr Salah, Jarju', and 'Ayn Buswar in the South, and on Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah in the western Al-Biqa', this afternoon. The source of the shelling was the emplacements of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the Israeli forces. Israeli helicopters participated earlier in the military operations, which have been raging violently since 1530 this afternoon.

According to reports from the South, the SLA has tightened its grip on Mlikh and the periphery of Tallat al-Radar toward the direction of 'Ayn Buswar, after having destroyed the fundamentalists' positions in the region. An SLA tank was destroyed by a landmine. The SLA men continued their advance inside the village of Al-Luwayzah and toward the outskirts of Jarju' in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, supported by Israeli helicopters, which are strafing the area.

Hizballah sources spoke of an attack by SLA and Israeli troops involving the use of vehicles along three axes: Mlikh-Al-Luwayzah, (?Mayyasah), and Jabal Safi. According to the same sources, a fundamentalist named Ghassan Haydar was killed. The sources accused the Amal Movement of coordinating with the SLA, adding that the movement set up roadblocks along Humin Road and at the 'Ayn Buswar crossroads, preventing Hizballah members from reaching the areas of the fighting. The sources added that Amal has detained 30 fundamentalists. [passage omitted]

An AFP correspondent in the South has reported that the Amal Movement shelled SLA and Israeli Army positions inside the security belt.

For its part, the SLA confirmed that its men occupied the village of Al-Luwayzah following a joint offensive with the Israeli Army outside the security belt that ended at 1300. The remaining fundamentalist positions in the South were located in Al-Luwayzah and the neighboring village of 'Ayn Buswar.

The Voice of Hope radio, the mouthpiece of the SLA, has reported that an SLA tank was destroyed in the South by a landmine, adding that the fighting left one SLA man dead and five others wounded.

Israeli Helicopter Downed

NC2505164288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1639 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] A military source in the Amal Movement in the South stated this evening that, during the Israeli raids against the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, which are still in progress, troops of the movement shot down a military helicopter. The helicopter was seen burning and falling on the battlefield.

Belgian Doctor 'Missing' in South Since 21 May

NC2505090288 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 25 (AFP)—A Belgian doctor working in southern Lebanon for the Norwegian humanitarian organization Norwac has been missing since Saturday, the group announced here Wednesday.

Dr. Jan Cools, 32, left the Al-Rashidyah Palestinian refugee camp on Saturday afternoon for the nearby city of Tyre, 83 kilometers (51 miles) south of Beirut, and has not been heard from since, a Norwac communique said.

Tyre is an area of Lebanon under the control of the pro-Syrian Shi'ite movement Amal.

Dr. Cools was on his way to Tyre to meet another Norwac team assigned to the Al-Qasimiyah refugee camp before travelling north to Beirut.

Norwac officials said that because of communication difficulties between Beirut and southern Lebanon it was not until Monday night that they learned of his disappearance.

The group's coordinator for Lebanon, Yvind Sagrdal, went to southern Lebanon Tuesday to inquire into Dr. Cools' whereabouts, the statement added.

Two Scandinavian employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were abducted February 5 in southern Lebanon and released 25 days later.

Birri Sends Delegation to Damascus for Talks

NC2505054088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] With the expulsion of the Amal Movement from Al-Ghubayrah, security sources say that Hizballah is now in full control of 90 percent of the suburb. Citing highly placed Shi'ite sources, AFP reported that Hizballah intends to forge ahead with its plans and that Amal's last quarter in Al-Shiyah is Hizballah's target.

According to the same sources, Minister Birri has dispatched a delegation to Damascus with a warning to the Syrian officials about the new plan being drawn up by the Revolutionary Guards and Fatah to gain control of the suburb. Birri noted that the implementation of this plan would enable Hizballah to deploy personnel in West Beirut and, consequently, undermine the security plan there.

Prime Minister Holds Talks in Damascus

NC2505134988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned from Damascus at 1430 today after holding talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on the situation in Beirut's southern suburb.

Following his meeting with Khaddam, Al-Huss stated: We are all directly concerned with the acute tragedy which the suburb and its inhabitants are experiencing. Our prime concern is to put an end to the horrible bloodshed caused by the fighting and to save the people from the fire of this insane war. He indicated that his meeting with Khaddam provided an opportunity to discuss the various possibilities for dealing with this issue. Al-Huss disclosed that the discussion also dealt with the dimensions of Israel's new and dangerous onslaught on the Al-'Urqub region in general, and the village of Shab'a in particular. We also discussed Lebanon's endeavors on the international level to confront this serious Israeli escalation, as well as Lebanon's expectation of support from all sisterly and friendly states in this connection.

Answering a question on the steps to be taken to deal with the situation in the suburb, Al-Huss said: I have nothing to declare with regard to what immediate steps will be taken on this level.

Iraq's Islamic Amal Group Denies Allegations

LD2405161888 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 24, IRNA — Iraq's Islamic Amal organisation today refuted claims that it intends to hit Iran's interests in Lebanon in case the Islamic Republic interferes with the Beirut crisis.

The organisation in a statement submitted to IRNA office here stressed on its strategic relations with Iran, and hailed Iran's sincere efforts to prevent bloodshed between Muslims in Lebanon.

"Spread of such allegations is part of sinister plots by the global arrogance and its elements which aims at sowing discord among regional Muslims and tarnishing Amal organisation's relations with Iran," said the statement.

Foreign press and local radios in Lebanon reported Monday that an organisation named as 'Islamic Amal' have issued a statement threatening to hit Iranian interests in Lebanon in case of an Iranian interference with the Beirut crisis.

Further Reportage on Amal, Hizballah Fighting

'Fierce' Clashes

NC2405161188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from the southern suburb, Hizballah gunmen have taken control of the Rawdat al-Shahidayn area and the road leading to it. They have also occupied the Amal Movement Military Bureau as well as the Security Bureau and nearby buildings. Hizballah sources said that it was decided to launch this operation after Amal members attacked a Hizballah post yesterday evening, leaving two persons dead and three wounded. According to reports, relative calm now prevails in the suburb, interspersed by gunfire on the Hayy Madi combat lines and in Marun Misk and Al-Musharrafiyah.

The clashes became fierce shortly before noon and in the afternoon, after Hizballah took control of Al-Ghubayrah at dawn and began to surround Al-Shiyah in preparation for its offensive. The Amal supply routes in Qasqas, Shatila, and west of Al-Tayyunah were bombarded from Bi'r al-'Abd, Al-Ghubayrah, and Mu'awwad, which also came under shelling from the 6th Brigade and Amal gunmen. Two rockets hit 'Ayn al-Rummanah a short while ago. [passage omitted]

The Fatah commander of the Beirut area has stressed that there is no coordination between Fatah and Hizballah. He said that Fatah's relations with Hizballah and the other nationalist parties are determined according to their stand on the Palestinian issue.

'Unprecedented' Ferocity

NC2405183888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] The Syrians have been trying for 10 days to separate the southern suburb from Iran and bring it under their West Beirut security plan. The quadripartite committee remains idle. Meanwhile, the Al-Ghubayrah area fell into the hands of Hizballah today, after battles of unprecedented ferocity. Six persons were killed and 113 wounded during this morning's fighting. The Amal Movement is now in control of only one part of the southern suburb, the Al-Shiyah quarter. [passage omitted]

There was a new development this afternoon. A press conference that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam was due to hold in the Iranian Embassy at 1700 was cancelled. The Iranian ambassador gave no reason for this. He merely apologized on behalf of the Iranian official, who is not at the embassy at the present time. He added that the embassy will issue a statement later.

Shi'ite sources have said that Sheykh ol-Eslam and the Iranian ambassador in Beirut visited the southern suburb yesterday. They met with a number of Hizballah leaders and some religious figures, and consulted them on the proposals for ending the fighting.

The Amal Movement and Hizballah have exchanged accusations in connection with the resumption of fighting today.

In a statement issued today, Hizballah's Central Information Mobilization Department said: There is no dispute between the party and the Syrians, who are quite well aware of our desire to end the fighting. They are also aware of our view that the doors of the suburb are not closed to them and that the suburb will not be a closed arena. Hizballah does not want to control the suburb. We stress that our insistence is on tackling the situation there through political means and on regulating the relationship between Amal and Hizballah on the basis of mutual recognition. The statement emphasized that life in the southern suburb has started to return to normal and that the sons of the suburb will not be affected by scaremongering.

Spiritual sources in the Higher Shi'ite Council expressed concern over the delay of the Syrian entry into the suburb. The sources said that new regional or international influences were emerging that would make this entry impossible in the long run, thus placing the suburb in a situation it does not want and further complicating the Lebanese problem on the eve of the presidential elections. The issue will be discussed by the Higher Shi'ite Council tomorrow.

Political sources in West Beirut have said that a political and popular move is now underway to create a situation that would pressure the Syrian leaders to implement their decision to enter the suburb.

Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has described the raging battles as a massacre such as Israel itself did not carry out. We are now doing what Israel could not do, he said.

Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hizballah, has condemned the attack on the Higher Shi'ite Council in AL-'AHD magazine, the organ of Hizballah. He said that criticism should be just and objective. He stressed that Islamic and nationalist leaders must act to halt the frenzied bloodshed and find a formula for reconciliation among the Islamic fighters. He also called for Syrian entry to supervise security.

2 Syrian Soldiers Killed

NC2405201788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has quoted security sources as saying that two Syrian soldiers were killed by Hizballah fighters near the airport. The Syrians have warned Hizballah that it must hand over the murderers.

9 Dead, 100 Wounded

NC2505064888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen continue in Alshiyah and on the periphery of Al-Ghubayrah this morning, following a round of ferocious fighting around midnight in which rockets and heavy- and medium-caliber weapons were used.

An Amal Movement source has been quoted as saying that last night's fighting had not produced any changes in terms of positions. The source added that Rawdat al-Shahidayn is still under Amal control.

The ferocious fighting last night left 9 people dead and well over 100 others wounded, according to unofficial medical sources. [passage omitted]

A foreign news agency has cited a security source as saying that three Syrian soldiers were killed and two others wounded in the exchange of shell fire in the southern suburb. The source added that a mortar round hit a Syrian roadblock at the Shatila traffic circle.

Paper Criticizes Murphy Visit, Statements

JN2405093688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "Murphy Paves the Way for Shultz Tour," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. diplomat has removed all doubts and reassured all those who are deceived by the U.S. mirage. He asserted that U.S. First Secretary [title as heard] George Shultz has nothing new to propose regarding the Middle East, and that U.S. diplomacy wants only to obtain unconditional Arab recognition of Israel. Thus, Murphy has paved the way for true intentions of U.S. diplomacy when he directly admitted that the revolution of stones in the occupied homeland has created a new situation, and that the United States must not allow the situation to deteriorate to an extent where Arab people can seize the opportunities and take the initiative.

AL-BA'TH continues: Murphy did not hide Washington's interest in stopping the Palestinian popular uprising. Washington is afraid the uprising will continue to spread, especially since there are signs of this, particularly in Egypt which is eager to avenge itself and its nation.

Although Shultz has not advised the Zionists to intensify their murderous and terrorist actions against the Palestinians, he expressed a direct desire to quell the uprising with the power available to the Zionists under the shadow of U.S. political protection.

This is how the U.S. diplomat paved the way for Shultz's coming tour. He has asserted the U.S. commitment to its undertakings to the Zionist entity and its direct hostility to the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: So, what does the U.S. secretary want from his new tour? No one doubts that the United States has one concern only—the need to get rid of the Palestinian Arab uprising. The United States cannot accomplish this without deception, which it uses against every Arab effort even before it begins.

Soviet Interior Ministry Officials Begin Talks

JN2405170488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1558 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Talks began here today between an Interior Ministry group led by Assistant Interior Minister Major General Salah al-Din al-Dabbagh and a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Interior Minister Jorking Yuriy Bivitch [name and title as received].

During the talks, they reviewed friendship and cooperation between the two countries in various areas. They also stressed the need to promote cooperation between the two ministries in the interest of both peoples.

The Soviet deputy interior minister stressed that the meeting will promote the exchange of views on both ministries of interior and strengthen their relations in the interests of both countries and peoples.

Foreign Minister To Visit Japan End of May

JN2405152088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will pay an official and cordial visit to Japan at the end of May at the invitation of Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and a number of ranking Japanese officials will receive him during his visit.

Al-Shar' will hold talks with the Japanese foreign minister on the means of bolstering and developing the existing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in the various spheres. They will also discuss current developments.

It is noteworthy that during this visit Al-Shar' will chair the delegation of the seven-member Arab committee in charge of contacting the Security Council member states to explain the importance of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and to rally more international support for it.

Afghanistan

Commander Mas'ud Enters Truce With Soviet Troops

OW2505023988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 KYODO—Well-known Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of Panjsher has entered into a truce with withdrawing Soviet troops and has also been excluded from Afghan mujahidin plans for a final assault on the Afghan capital, Western and rebel sources said Tuesday.

They referred to the relatively peaceful withdrawal of Soviet troops through the territory along the Salang Tunnel controlled by Mas'ud's men and said it may be due to an agreement between Mas'ud and the Russians. Mas'ud is also thought to have entered into a temporary cease-fire with Soviet and Kabul troops in Panjsher Valley.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources reported three attacks on the first batch of withdrawing Soviet troops by the mujahidin with light weapons and rockets. The Soviets suffered some casualties in the shooting at Shakar Darreh and Gow Darreh north of Kabul, they said.

Western diplomatic sources said there were strong rumors of an impending change in the cabinet in Kabul along with speculation that Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand would be the first man to lose his job to any "senior refugee abroad" or to Hasan Sharq, chief of the repatriation arrangements for Afghan refugees.

The diplomats also said government troops have been evacuated or forced out of 18 districts since the signing of the Geneva accords. Of them, 11 were border towns and seven located in the interior.

Resistance 'Divided' Over Military Tactics

BK2505024688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 (AFP)—Afghan resistance rebels have stepped up rocket attacks on Kabul in recent days in a bid to undermine morale among the government and its troops, observers say here.

(In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said that several rockets had fallen on residential areas of the Afghan capital Tuesday morning.

(TASS, in a Kabul datelined dispatch, added that details of casualties were not immediately available.)

The seven-party mujahidin alliance is divided on the best strategy for taking the Afghan capital but agrees that it needs to "exert pressure" on the capital to try and "demoralise President Najibullah," observers said.

Rebel field commanders believe there is no hurry to take the capital and say that an all-out assault on Kabul at this time would lead to "large losses in human life" and destroy installations that the rebels want to protect.

But their views are not shared by the mujahidin leaders pontificating from the safety of their bases in the north-west Pakistan border city of Peshawar.

Radical alliance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who heads the fundamentalist faction of the Hezb-e Eslami party, believes that a frontal attack should be launched on Kabul as soon as possible.

Islamabad, which provides Hikmatyar with military and political support, goes along with his beliefs.

Lahore's NATION newspaper Tuesday quoted a government source as saying that "Kabul must fall quickly as a long drawn-out civil war in Afghanistan would provoke too many problems for Pakistan."

Top rebel commander 'Abdul Haq, who directs operations in the Kabul area for the Hezb-e Eslami's moderate fundamentalist Khalis faction, opposes the direct assault argument and calls for patience.

He said he would prefer to conduct "underground operations from within the Afghan Army and police," saying that such tactics would eventually see the government topple like a pack of cards.

Western diplomatic sources here said the rebels had launched eight rocket attacks against targets in west and southwest Kabul in the week ended Sunday.

They added that mujahidin rebels had prevented the government from sending elite presidential guards to Kharghah barracks to add beef to the eight army divisions stationed there.

In Peshawar the rebel alliance said Monday that mujahidin guerrillas had killed at least 17 Afghan Government troops and destroyed nine tanks in an attack Sunday on the Pol-e Charkhi garrison, some 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Kabul.

The rebel statement coincided with a Moscow-datelined report from the official Soviet news agency TASS, which said that the rebels had fired six rockets at Kabul Saturday killing one woman and wounding another.

The resistance's AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS gave a more detailed account saying: "Thirty-five mujahidin of Hezb-e Eslami Khalis led the May 21 attack," adding that they had used a new weapon for the first time—the Saphei (super armoured piercing high explosive incendiary).

It added that 30 Saphei shells, which have a range of 20-kilometres (12 miles), were fired at the garrison causing large-scale damage.

Western diplomatic sources said the shells were amongst the latest military supplies received by the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Attacks on Kabul 24-25 May Reported

'Heavy Weapons' Attack

LD2405143388 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 24 May (BAKHTAR)—Elements connected with the extremists fired heavy weapons at residential areas of the southern suburb of Kabul city at 0430, causing deaths and material damage.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of heavy weapons fire in the Kolangar area of Dar ol Aman, a toiler compatriot, Ghulam Sarwar, a porter, was martyred and three others including (?superintendant) 'Abdul Qader, son of 'Abdul Razeq, were injured when shells landed on their homes in Hasan Khan.

Similarly, a compatriot was seriously wounded when shells hit the local wood market. Four rooms of a house belonging to 'Abdul Wakil were destroyed when a rocket landed there. The report adds that businessman 'Abdul Rahim suffered material damage as a result of a rocket landing on his house.

Security officials rushed the injured to hospitals where they are undergoing treatment. Their conditions are improving.

3 Rockets Fired 25 May

BK2505133688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, May 25 (AFP)—Suspected Afghan rebels fired at least three rockets into Kabul Wednesday, diplomatic sources said. No casualties were reported.

Two rockets exploded near the Microrayon area of the capital, where a large number of Soviet civilians live, and the other landed about five kilometres (three miles) from the airport, the sources said.

Witnesses reported a huge column of smoke billowing from behind the airport.

An Interior Ministry spokesman denied that any rockets had been fired into the Microrayon area. He admitted that a minor explosion occurred at a Soviet base near the airport but said it was nothing serious.

The attacks came shortly before Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was to leave for Havana to attend a meeting of ministers from non-aligned nations. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Violations of Accords Reported to UN

LD2405173588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the fourth letter of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Pakistani violations of Article 2 of document No 1 of the Geneva agreements was submitted to the office in Kabul today, 24 May 1988.

The letter has drawn the attention of the United Nations delegation to the transfer of the extremists' offices, training centers, bases, and arms stores, which have recently increased enormously, to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. Similarly, new information has been tendered about the construction of bases, hide-outs, and arms and ammunition stores and the illegal entrance of a number of foreign advisors and instructors with the extremist armed groups. The attention of the United Nations delegation has also been drawn to the supply of a large amount of new types of arms and the commencement of weapons training programs by Pakistani authorities.

It is requested that the office investigate the obvious violations of the Pakistani authorities from the obligations emanating from the Geneva agreements and to take steps about the precise observance of the guarantees.

BAKHTAR Comments on Geneva 'Violations'

LD2505063788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR—In Article Two of bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations in particular non-interference and non-intervention the sides obligations have been strictly [word indistinct]. Among other things, the sides have undertaken not to let their territories be used as a base to disturb the socio-political and economic stability of the other country.

The agreement has bound the contracting parties to refrain from giving direct or indirect support to subversive actions as well as from financing or recruiting mercenaries against each other. The contracting parties are to avoid making hostile propaganda against each other.

The Republic of Afghanistan has taken firm measures in order to give full effect to Geneva accords. The provision of further facilities for the return of [words indistinct]. A clear manifestation of the will of the Republic of Afghanistan for the full realisation of Geneva accords.

Deplorably, the other side, that is, the Republic of Pakistan has not manifested of itself the necessary practicable measures for the observance of Geneva accords and its hostility is going on against the Republic of

Afghanistan. The mass media [word indistinct] are making unfriendly propaganda against Afghanistan and thus paves the ground for the propaganda of opposition extremists.

Assistance to opposition extremist groups has not yet terminated. The presence of camps for military training of extremist groups, the existence of the offices of the so-called "seven-party alliance" and the provision of other facilities to the opposition groupings in the territory of Pakistan testify to this fact. Caravans of weapons and munitions are crossing from Pakistan into Afghanistan. Some Pakistani circles are persuading the Afghan refugees to continue living in the camps and the return of the refugees to their homeland is obstructed by the Afghan opposition extremist groups.

The extremists and their patrons, contrary to Geneva accords, are committing war and bloodshed against the innocent Afghan people. The assertions of Robert Peck [name as received], under-secretary of US Department of State, before the congressional committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs saying that the United States will never give up its support to the extremists is a violation of the commitment made in the statement of April 14, 1988 on the international guarantees for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan earnestly hopes that the Geneva accords be strictly and persistently observed by Pakistan and the United States for ensuring peace and consolidation of stability of the situation around Afghanistan earnestly hopes that the Geneva accords be strictly hopes to employ its potentials in an atmosphere of peace for the country's construction.

Najibullah's Teachers Day Message on Education

LD2405091088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 May 88

[Message by Najibullah, president of the Republic, on Teachers Day—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots and esteemed teachers:

It is with pleasure that this year we celebrate and appreciate the lofty standing of our homeland's esteemed teachers. This is a time when the humane policy of peace and national reconciliation is achieving new gains in our motherland with each passing day and when the basis for its implementation in practice is constantly improving. Let me express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the sacred and great services of you teachers to the dear homeland. I congratulate you on the occasion of Teachers Day which is a day of respect for the lofty standing of knowledge. [passage omitted]

The role of teachers in the past decade—the first decade since the victory of the April Revolution—has been significant. They have made sacrifices in educating our children and in keeping the doors of the schools open in every corner of the homeland. The memory of the heroism of the 2,000 teachers who have been killed by the enemies of knowledge, contrary to Koranic and Islamic rules and human standards and values, will remain in our country's history.

Dear teachers: Our great achievements in the spheres of education and training are: the creation of a new education and training system; the convocation of the first and second teachers congress; the approval of documents awarding titles to outstanding teachers; the encouragement of and appreciation for teachers; the allotment of higher pay scales in accordance with the place of work and school facilities; the creation and expansion of teachers institutes and pedagogic institutions; the fruitful and consistent struggle against illiteracy; and the free distribution of breakfasts, footwear, uniforms, and writing materials to students. The adoption of these measures is the sign of the state's high regard for the education and training of the homeland's children and of the standing and position of teachers. [passages omitted]

Dear compatriots, I want to say the following to the armed opposition groups:

Let us think of those children who could have become wise men and women, skilled doctors and engineers, economists and teachers for the future of our country, but whose lives have been ruined by the continuation of the war. Let us think of those children of our country who at present are outside the school doors bearing the intolerable burden of war on their frail shoulders, who have been deprived of schooling. [passage omitted]

Esteemed teachers: The state is further increasing the level of care and assistance for the development and expansion of the education and training systems and for improving the position and social standing of teachers. We regard this as an objective necessity for the development of other spheres of life. I ask you to bring up the young generation of the country in the spirit of respecting the beliefs of the people. Teach them the lesson of peace, patriotism, and love for people. Arouse their hatred and indignation against war and warmongers. Enhance the quality of the educational and training process. And tryto teach your students better and more, and make them into healty and successful builders of the future of their society. We wish your success in this great national cause.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Ziray Meets With Vietnamese Youth Delegation

LD2405230588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], led by Hoang Bich Son, member of the Central Committee and head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of that country, met this afternoon

with Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee at the headquarters of the party Central Committee. During their meeting, Saleh Mohammad Ziray presented information on the gains of the April Revolution, the Geneva accords on a political settlement to the situation around Afghanistan, imperialism's intervention, and the intensification of the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Paktia Nomad Assembly Backs Geneva Accords
LD2505083688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0439 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR—Elders and chieftains of the nomads in their extensive jirgah (assembly) held in the Paktia Province on Monday expressed their readiness to contribute actively in ensuring of peace and tranquillity in the country, realisation of the Geneva accords and foiling of heinous designs of the extremists in their areas, our correspondent reports from Gardeyz city.

Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs and nationalities spoke at the jirgah about the situation around Afghanistan after the signing of the Geneva accords and improvement of the living conditions of the Kuchis (nomads).

At the end of the jirgah some proposals on Kuchis' daily problems were raised and decisions were adopted to solve them.

Rabbani, Mujadeddi Interviewed on Soviet Pullout
AU2405153888 Vienna PROFIL in German
No 21, 24 May 88 pp 60-61

[Interview with mujahidin leaders Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front, and Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of the Islamic Afghan Association, by PROFIL journalist Bahram Gharedaghi, who interviewed the two mujahidin leaders "one after the other": "The Russians Leave Weapons for Us"; date and place not given]

[Text] PROFIL: The mujahidin are attacking the withdrawing Soviet soldiers. Do they want to keep them in Afghanistan?

Mujadeddi: We are against these attacks. If the Soviets want to withdraw, let them go. Of course, attacks on the rest of the Soviet contingent will continue.

Rabbani: We have always been willing to conclude an agreement with the Soviets to guarantee the safety of their troops during the withdrawal. Since such an agreement was not concluded, of course, we cannot guarantee that no one will harm the Soviets. Soviet Chief of Staff General Boris Gromov asked that we not attack his troops any more. But, during their withdrawal, the Soviets themselves have carried out large attacks in areas where mujahidin and civilians live. Therefore, confrontation is inevitable. Only if the Soviets stop supporting the Kabul regime would it be possible to let them go undisturbed.

PROFIL: In Peshawar it is said that the slogan "death to the Geneva agreement" is circulating among the mujahidin.

Mujadeddi: Yes, the Geneva agreement is condemned—by brothers who have strange and incomprehensible views. We tell them that this agreement at least brought about the Soviet withdrawal. Outside aid to us is not—thank God—being blocked. (Footnote 1) (The Geneva agreement does indeed envisage that Pakistan, the main supplier to date, will stop supplies to the mujahidin)

Rabbani: The withdrawal has nothing to do with the Geneva agreement. Before the signing, even Gorbachev said that the withdrawal will start even if the agreement is not concluded. The Soviets have long noticed that the invasion of Afghanistan was a big mistake.

PROFIL: How long do you think the Kabul government will be able to persevere?

Mujadeddi: As soon as the Soviets have withdrawn completely, their puppet regime will fall.

PROFIL: All mujahidin leaders talk about a future Islamic state. Which existing Islamic country will be similar to the future Afghanistan?

Rabbani: This we will see as soon as we have founded this Islamic republic. We do not have any country as a model, only Islam.

Mujadeddi: There is no doubt that this state will be founded on Afghan traditions and Islamic laws, the "shari'a." The most important things will be the equality and justice that Islam promises to the people, and we are against any radicalism.

PROFIL: The mujahidin organizations have called on the Islamic countries to recognize their provisional government. Has this appeal been successful?

Rabbani: So far, the Islamic countries have not recognized our government. But we think that they have a positive attitude toward us. There are also some non-Islamic countries that are inclined to recognize our government. They are still waiting. I hope that they will not let us wait for too long. In former times, when we spoke about having conquered large parts of Afghanistan, many people were surprised. But now no one can doubt any longer that we steadily expand the liberated areas.

Mujadeddi: The new government should, first of all, be accepted by the Afghan nation. This can only be done through a loya jirgah (the traditional Afghan people's assembly) or through general elections. Afterward, it can easily be recognized by the world.

PROFIL: There are rumors that in the future the Western supporters of the Afghan resistance will no longer send their aid to the political leaders in Peshawar but directly to the commanders in the country's interior. Are they to be put under pressure to accept the Geneva agreement?

Mujadeddi (very excited): This is not true, this is only propaganda, this cannot be done at all.

Rabbani: It was and is a big mistake for the West and the colonial powers to always want to train leaders in other countries. Such a leadership, trained from the outside, cannot consist of anyone but mercenaries and spies. Each nation should decide on its leaders by itself. To try to do this from the outside is impudent and useless. The commanders and all Afghans reject such attempts at splitting us. In former times Afghanistan always had weak governments that were not supported by the people. I do not think that our commanders and all those participating in the jihad (holy war) will let themselves be influenced from the outside. Those who make themselves available to the foreigners will be remembered as traitors in Afghanistan's history.

PROFIL: But if Pakistan sticks to the Geneva agreement, where will the mujahidin get their weapons from in the future?

Rabbani: At present we are seeing several of the Kabul regime bases fall immediately following the withdrawal of the Soviets. Therefore, we have acquired many supplies and equipment. The militias loyal to the government flee from their bases and leave their equipment. If the Soviets really leave Afghanistan, everything that they stored for the Kabul government will belong to us.

Mujadeddi: The friendly states have also assured us that, as long as the Kabul regime receives aid from the Soviets, we will continue to receive arms.

PROFIL: Many Afghans want former King Zahir Shah to return to Afghanistan.

Rabbani: This would only lead to problems now. His era is over. He has nothing to say in our revolutionary time. Talking about him is a waste of time. The Afghans have led their revolution to victory without him. They will also decide on their future leadership without him. During the war we might have needed his leadership, but not any longer.

Mujadeddi: From the beginning of the jihad we have adhered to the principle: Each Afghan and each Muslim has the right to fight for the liberation of his country. This also includes former ministers and also the ex-king. If Zahir Shah came to Afghanistan and formed a government this would be useful, of course. There is no doubt that the majority of the Afghans would support him. But, unfortunately, some brothers also ignore this fact. There are also some friendly states that are against this.

PROFIL: Do you see any danger of Pakistan forcing the one million Afghan refugees to return?

Rabbani: The Geneva agreement gives the refugees the choice to return if they themselves consider the time right and there is peace in the country. Therefore, I do not think that the Pakistani Government will expel them. This would be against all human rights. As long as Najibullah and his people are in power in Afghanistan and there is no government elected by the people, no one must force the refugees to return.

PROFIL: How do you see the near future in Afghanistan?

Mujadeddi: Of course, it is still dark. Hope can emerge only if the mujahidin agree among each other and bring a strong government into power through popular elections. This is the only way to prevent a blood-bath in Afghanistan in the future.

PROFIL: Is it correct that there have already been bloody battles between the followers of the mujahidin leaders Hikmatyar and Nabi Muhammadi in the north of Afghanistan?

Mujadeddi: Unfortunately, this is true. In the north and also in other areas there have been armed confrontations. We have ordered an investigation committee to settle these conflicts. We are very shocked. May God protect us from such events.

BAKHTAR Reports Consumer Goods, Food Situation

LD2505062988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR—Every day hundreds of private and state vehicles carry foodstuffs, consumer goods, vegetables as well as other necessity goods from the provinces and villages of the country to the capital and vice versa.

There exist enough materials in the markets which meet the need of people.

One of the customers told our reporter that the free of charge distribution of flour and ghee to workers and state employees through the cooperatives has helped greatly the stabilisation of prices of goods in markets.

"Undeclared war and creation of obstacles by extremists on the ways of transportation is the main cause of the comparative raising of goods prices in markets."

"Strengthening of peace and security (?through) the implementation of national reconciliation policy will improve the situation" said the customer.

India

Chinese, Pakistani Arms Taken From 'Terrorists'

BK2405134388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpt] In Punjab, three hard-core terrorists, including Husna Singh, have been killed in separate encounters in Faridkot District in the last 24 hours. Husna Singh carried a reward of 50,000 rupees on his head. He was killed in an encounter during a raid of his hideout near Toharchak village.

The district police and paramilitary forces seized a big cache of firearms and Chinese and Pakistani-made weapons from them. The director general of Punjab Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told our correspondent that the arms haul included 3 Chinese AK-47 assault rifles, 1 U.S.-made Sten carbine, 2 Pakistan-made revolvers, and 3 double-barrel guns beside a bullet-proof jacket and 700 live cartridges. During the encounters, some 10 terrorists escaped under the cover of darkness. [passage omitted]

Temple Situation Noted; Spy Ring 'Smashed'

BK2505040088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, two more terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kapurthala District last night. One of them, identified as Ranjit Singh Pamma of Kanchli, was involved in a number of terrorist killings. The encounter followed a raid by security forces on the terrorists' hideout in village Sawal. Their accomplice, however, managed to escape. Three Chinese assault rifles and some ammunition have been recovered.

In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down four persons in Kambo village in Chabal area late last night.

In Amritsar, the curfew is being relaxed in some more areas for 6 hours from 1100 this morning. With this, the curfew will be restricted only to about 10 percent of the 300-meter periphery around the Golden Temple complex. The decision was taken after a review of the situation by the deputy commissioner, Mr Sarabjit Singh, and the senior police officials last evening. The deputy commissioner said some business localities have been identified and the announcement regarding the lifting of curfew in these areas will be made later today. He said the district administration is also planning to give some relief to the business community who have suffered a lot during the curfew. Our correspondents, who visited the Golden Temple complex, report that the number of devotees who visited the shrine on the 3d day this morning is comparatively more than the last 2 days.

The president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, has urged the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee to give an undertaking to the government that the Golden Temple complex will not be allowed to become a sanctuary for terrorists and secessionists. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, he called for appropriate amendments in the Gurdwara Act to separate religion from politics.

Meanwhile, the Border Security Force [BSF] has smashed a Pakistani espionage gang operating in the Ranbirsinghpura sector of Jammu. Two members of the gang were shot dead when they were trying to sneak into the Indian territory at the Arnia area of the sector. Five of them have been arrested. Some incriminating documents have been recovered. A BSF spokesman said a strict vigil is being maintained along the border.

'Terrorists' Kill 10 in Punjab 24-25 May

BK2505090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Ten people were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Punjab last night. Some terrorists forced their entry into the house of one Harnek Singh at Markur village in Ropar District and gunned down his brother and two women of the family. Harnek Singh and his servant were injured. The sarpanch [village head] of Tanjori village, Kulwant Singh, and a woman in Bhagarwal Village were also killed in the same district. In another incident at Kamboh village in Amritsar District terrorists shot dead four persons. One Piyara Singh was shot dead at village Tander in the same district.

Amendments to Arms, Sikh Temple Acts Planned

BK2405164088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] An ordinance is to be promulgated in the next few days to amend the Arms Act and the Sikh Gurdwaras Act. This was to ban misuse of religious institutions. The amendment of the Arms Act provides for increased punishment. It also provides for banning the possession and use of both licensed and unlicensed weapons. The ban on licensed weapons covers use of certain prohibited bore.

An official spokesman said the amendments were supported by all the opposition parties which met in New Delhi today. The meeting was convened by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, thanked the opposition parties for the broad support extended to the government in carrying out the Operation Flush Out in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. He said it was a limited operation that achieved a certain tactical objective. But the problem of terrorism is yet to be solved. He expressed concern that the terrorist killings have increased after the operation. To meet the situation, the security forces have been regrouped and strengthened. In 600 villages in Punjab, village protection force has been set up. Very soon, more villages will be covered.

Mr Buta Singh told the members that the SGPC has not responded to the letter of the deputy commissioner of Amritsar, stipulating certain conditions relating to security of the Golden Temple for handing over its custody to the

SGPC. He said handing over of the temple to SGPC without such assurances would go against public interests. He hoped that the SGPC will bow to the prevailing public opinion and come forward to shoulder its responsibility.

The opposition parties extended their full support to the proposed measures at the meeting. They suggested that the government should consider steps in association with opposition parties to mobilize the people against terrorism and build the people's confidence to fight it. The opposition members welcomed the government's efforts to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple complex. They said this is the time to isolate the terrorists because people are in a mood to fight them. Almost all of them said that the Jodhpur detenues [Sikh political detainees at Jodhpur jail] should be released. Most of them were critical of the SGPC's unwillingness to give the assurance to keep the temple free of arms and terrorists. They also expressed their unhappiness over the Unified Akali Dal and its failure to condemn terrorism and killings. An official spokesman said the meeting lasted 2 hours.

From the government side, the meeting was attended by the home minister, the minister of state for home, the information and broadcasting minister and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs. Others who attended included Mr N.G. Ranga, Congress-I; Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI; Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata; Mr Virendra Verma, Lok Dal; Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP; Mr J.S. Arora, Akali Dal; Mr Samar Mukherjee, CPI-M; and Mr Kolanda Velu, AIADMK.

Briefs

SAARC Food Security Reserve

India has earmarked over 1.5 lakh tons of food grains as its share toward the 2-lakh-ton SAARC food security reserve. With India's overwhelming contribution, the reserve now stands at 1.78 lakh tons. A SAARC press note issued in Kathmandu yesterday said Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives have also pledged to contribute toward the reserve. [Text] [*BK2505052088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 25 May 88*]

Iran

Khomeyni Meets Families of POW's, MIA's

LD2505140588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] According to Central News Unit report, families of martyrs, POW's and MIA's from the cities of Shahryar and (Savejbolagh) as well as some from Tehran, accompanied by officials of the cultural units and public relations units of the Martyrs' Foundation from across the country, together with members of the Headqaurters for the Planning of Cultural Affairs for the Children of Martyrs met Imam Khomeyni in his Jamaran residence his morning.

At the start of the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Foundation for Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, gave a speech congratulating the imam of ummah and the martyr-nurturing people of Iran on the anniversary of the recapture of Khorramshahr and expressed the hope that with the efforts of warriors of Islam and as a result of the steadfastness and resistance of the Muslim Iranian Nation, final victory will be achieved.

Mr Karrubi then noted the activities of the Martyrs' Foundation concerning the cultural affairs of the families of martyrs and praised and thanked all officials responsible for the education of the children of martyrs at schools and universities. Mr Karrubi also expressed sadness at the heart-wrenching bloody clashes in Lebanon.

Mr Karrubi noted the sacrifices of the families of martyrs, MIA's and POW's. On behalf of the imam of the ummah, he offered them his congratulations and condolences and praised the steadfastness of the martyrs' families.

According to the same report, at the end of the meeting Imam Khomeyni responded to the crowd's expressions of emotion.

Flag of Freedom on Khomeyni's Cancelling Marches

NC2505120288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] As we mentioned in yesterday's news, Ruhollah Khomeyni's office did not agree to the street marches of the Hezbollahis this morning, 24 May. Our co-combatants reported from Tehran that the demonstrations scheduled for today in Tehran had been planned by Ahmad Khomeyni and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. These two gentlemen had organized the marches as a display of strength against Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Mara'ashi-Najafi, who are opposed to the war. However, Ruhollah Khomeyni, fearing the reaction of these two prominent ayatollahs and the intense fury of the people, forbade these street marches at the last minute.

It may be recalled that Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Mar'ashi-Najafi sent letters to Ruhollah Khomeyni in which they said that the continuation of the war with Iraq was detrimental to the interests of Islam and the nation.

Forces Urged To Go to Shalamcheh Front

LD2505105388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the IRGC has issued the following statement: Using a substantial part of its forces the Zionist regime of Iraq attempted to launch an offensive in the Shalamcheh region this morning, an offensive that was bravely confronted by the capable warriors of Islam. The battle is currently raging between our forces and those of the enemy in that region.

The IRGC statement notes the efforts of the enemy in Shalamcheh region and invites the people of the country, particularly those in the provinces of Yazd, Kerman, Esfahan, Mazandaran, and Fars, to immediately and extensively support their battle units in this operational theater.

The statement also invites all mobilization forces that have undergone training, as well as support forces and those ready for redispatch, to immediately support their units at the front by going to the front, thus crushing the enemy activities.

Attack on Shalamcheh Repelled

LD2505075188 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants this morning repelled an enemy offensive in Shalamcheh operational region, in the southern fronts. Battle in the area is reportedly continuing with Iran's Islamic forces vigilantly defending their positions.

Further Reportage on 'Zolfaqar' Exercises

War Games Continue

LD2405121488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Another part of the final phase of the "Zolfaqar" exercises began today in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The Central News Unit reports that the amphibious exercises include naval units shooting katyusha shells aimed at imaginary enemy coastlines. First, fighter bombers bombed the area; then paratroopers landed; and finally, boats and naval units attacked the imaginary enemy coastline to capture their positions. In the last part of this phase of the exercises, helicopters and planes landed marine forces to establish positions in the region.

Khamene'i Views Maneuvers

LD2405184488 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., May 24, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i arrived at the deck of a command warship in the Oman Sea by a helicopter Tuesday morning to inspect "Zolfaqar-3" maneuvers, the greatest ever carried out by the Iranian armed forces.

During the military exercises, witnessed by the president, the naval units including missile guiding frigates carried out various operations such as firing of surface-to-surface missiles at hypothetical targets in both the sea and land, electronic warfare, escort of ships and confrontation with enemy air attacks.

The president was accompanied by the defence minister, the commanders of the Navy, Air Force and Ground Forces, the Joint Staff chief, his military and senior advisers, and a number of other military and political officials.

Among other operations carried out during the 3rd and 4th stages of the maneuvers were landing of paratroopers and marines, firing of torpedoes at hypothetical enemy submarines, and mock dog fights by Air Force F-4 jets.

At the beginning of the "Zolfaqar-3" operations, a number of Iranian fighter bombers fired missiles at and bombed a hypothetical coast of the enemy.

Meanwhile, President Khamene'i who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council visited an exhibition on the achievements of the naval self-sufficiency industries which was held aboard the command warship.

During the visit, the president was briefed on the progress made by the naval self-sufficiency industries in manufacturing various sophisticated weapons and electronic equipment.

In a brief speech, President Khamene'i lauded personnel of the naval self-sufficiency industries for their efforts to cut the country's dependence on foreign goods and wished them success.

Further on Khamene'i Visit

LD2505121688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The great joint "Zolfaqar-3" exercise, now in its final stage in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean, were viewed today by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, and a number of our country's high-ranking military commanders. The maneuvers continued today with a parade ceremony in which the units taking part in the maneuvers marched past the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council who stood on the deck of a command warship.

these ceremonies, which lasted several hours, tens of naval and air units consisting of heavy and light destroyers, missile launching frigates, naval logistical craft, amphibious carriers, aircraft carriers [hava-nav], minesweeping helicopters, and antisubmarine and antisurface craft [zed-e zirdarya'i va zed-e sathi] passed in front of Mr Khamene'i in superb formation. Their strength and victorious presence at sea invalidate the false claims of the arrogant nations' media about the diminishing combat capability of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After viewing the parade of these model naval units, part of the units participating in the biggest joint naval maneuver of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces, the president praised their military formation. According to Central News Unit and IRNA report, after the

parade of naval and air units, defensive units carried out firing exercises by naval craft at unmanned guided planes. In this exercise, naval units fired accurately at the unmanned planes, which were set up in an attack formation, and destroyed them. They were testing their weapons and assessing their combat preparedness.

Khamene'i on Naval Capability

NC2505081788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Defense Council [SDC] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has offered evening and night prayers on board a command ship carrying naval personnel and high-level political and military officials. Referring to the Iranian nation's readiness to engage the enemy, Khamene'i said: We are courageous and welcome danger because we are in the right and are defending the nation. The president added: Our nation has risen against the scoundrels of the world who have trampled on our rights and derided our prestige and honor; hence the oppressive powers' reaction toward our revolutionary nation. The SDC chairman expressed his appreciation for the courage and valor of the naval forces' personnel, saying: You, the personnel and officials of the Navy, hold privileged positions in the ranks, which are strong as steel. You did not hide but confronted the enemy on the frontlines, and today our armed forces are like the self-sacrificing youths who proudly laid down their lives for the Islamic revolution.

Speaking of the extremely successful "Zolfaqar-3" maneuvers, which are unprecedented in the history of the Iranian nation, President Khamene'i said: You should continue these maneuvers with even greater strength, carrying them through to their desired objective. Show the enemy that the Navy is alive and, contrary to the assumption of those who think they have dealt you a final blow, prove that you have forced the enemy to grovel. God willing, these maneuvers will be a source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces and the Navy and a source of prestige for our nation.

Stressing the need for assistance and coordination, Mr Khamene'i spoke about faith in God and the proper fulfillment of obligations, stating: With faith in God Almighty, we will fight before the eyes of our enemy. With immense pride and the grace of God, we will inflict relentless defeat on the enemy. Alluding to the strategic importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran internationally and in the Third World, the president said: The struggling leaders of the Third World have told us specifically that we are the only nation that resists intimidation. Today the Iranian nation has confirmed this with its strength, and U.S. warships have acknowledged, in this very Persian Gulf, the valor and worth of the Iranian nation.

In conclusion, the president emphasized: We are in the right, and we wish to forge our own destiny and eliminate the superpowers' influence from this country.

Malekzadegan on Naval 'Mission'

LD2405183088 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., May 24, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan Tuesday warned foreign warships that Iranian naval units were prepared to thwart any attempts by them in the Persian Gulf waters.

The Navy commander made the warning aboard a warship while inspecting a final stage of the ongoing "Zolfaqar-3" maneuvers, the greatest naval military exercises ever conducted by the Iranian armed forces in the Gulf of Oman.

The rear admiral told reporters that necessary measures have been taken for any possible confrontation in the Persian Gulf and that Iranian naval forces will never hesitate to carry out their sacred mission.

Iran's naval forces will carry out their mission in protecting territorial waters and islands as well as shipping routes regardless of the presence of intruding foreign warships in the region, Malekzadegan made it clear.

He said that all naval units participating in the maneuvers including logistical vessels have been equipped with electronic ststems and arms by Iranian experts.

On the goal of the maneuvers, the rear admiral said that although the Navy has sustained some damage and casualties in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, but this time the naval forces, owing to their hard efforts and their firm belief in the sacred defence against aggression, have appeard stronger than ever before. [sentence as received]

With regards to potential threats to Iran's shipping routes, the Navy has drawn necessary plans to safeguard the country's supply routes even in the remotest corners of the world, the commander said.

During the operations, anti-aircraft units based on warships destroyed aircraft of hypothetical enemies with all kinds of anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles.

UN Envoy Urges Action on Chemical Bombings

LD2405201088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] A meeting between the Iranian envoy to the United Nations and the president of the Security Council is the subject of our next report.

Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, the UN envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met the president of the Security Council last night and strongly demanded that he take fundamental and immediate action on the Iraqi regime's violation of Security Council Resolution No

612. He noted that the resolution, condemning the use of chemical weapons, is mandatory and that the Security Council has no reason to delay condemning and punishing the Iraqi regime.

The Islamic Republic's envoy to the UN said in the course of the meeting: As was stated in the letter dated 19 May 1988 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN secretary general, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to welcome a UN delegation to investigate the repeated use of chemical weapons. During the meeting he stressed that a number of the members of the Security Council, including permanent members, in their contacts with the Iranian envoy to UN have expressed the need for immediate action by the Security Council.

Following this meeting, the envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to recent remarks by General Vernon Walters, U.S. envoy to the UN, concerning the need for the implementation of UN Resolution No 598 and said: The last suggestion by the secretary general concerning the implementation of his own proposal met with opposition from the Iraqi regime. Now it is clear that Iraq is opposed to the implementation of the secretary general's proposals and has created many problems in this regard. On the other hand, the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on cooperation with the secretary general, and our last response to the secretary general was a positive one. Therefore, there is no reason for members of the Security Council to delay in declaring the Iraqi regime as the obstacle to the implementation of the secretary general's proposal.

In the course of the interview, Mahallati added: The Walters' efforts to raise the importance of Resolution No 598 in place of the secretary general's proposal are unacceptable and inappropriate. He added: Walters' remarks mean only one thing, and that is U.S. opposition to the secretary general's proposal, while the UN secretary general has so far been asked four times by the Security Council to continue his efforts. The Security Council, as well as the absolute majority of its members, are in favor of continuing the secretary general's proposal and his efforts.

In the meantime, the UN secretary general, who is presently in London, has informed British officials that he will begin a new round of efforts to resolve the Iran-Iraq war. In a 3-hour meeting with the British prime minister and the foreign secretary he said: There is no longer any need to raise the issue of an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Britain Said To Support UN Move To End War

LD2405214388 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] London, May 24, IRNA—The U.N. secretary general's proposal for a new round of proximity talks with Tehran and Baghdad to discuss ways of implementing Resolution 598 has the support of the British Government.

The plan was disclosed by Javier Perez de Cuellar in separate meetings with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Monday.

A spokeswoman for the Prime Minister's Office said that she could not go into detail about what was discussed in the new initiative but indicated that there probably was some optimism.

In a recent interview with THE WASHINGTON POST, Thatcher hinted new moves to end Iraq's eight year war with Iran could be in the offing.

The Foreign Office also believed that it could be easier at the moment to find a diplomatic solution while there was less fighting and that Britain supported the efforts of the secretary general to get Resolution 598 implemented by having direct or indirect talks with the two parties.

After his meetings, Perez de Cuellar suggested that he had set a private deadline around July 1 to begin the proximity talks and that he was waiting for a written reply from Iran on procedural proposals.

The talks were understood to be aimed at establishing a timetable for a truce, withdrawals of troops and work on a commission on war guilt and reparations.

The Foreign Office said it was always optimistic about getting 598 implemented and wanted it "accepted by Iran."

If the latest initiative failed however, "we should look at other ways to get 598 implemented and I would imagine that would go back to an arms embargo resolution," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

According to the London GUARDIAN, Britain, France and the U.S. are "relying heavily" on the secretary general to convince both combatants that the war cannot be won. The three Western powers "realise they cannot win Soviet support for an arms embargo," it said.

The new moves are expected to be discussed by the U.S. President and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit this week and again be further pursued when Reagan calls on Thatcher on his way back to Washington.

Iravani, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

LD2405213088 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Mutual Tehran-Moscow cooperation in energy, oil, gas and steel mill were discussed between Iran's minister of economic and financial affairs, Mohammad Javad Iravani and Soviet Ambassador here Vladimir V. Gudev today.

Establishment of scientific cooperation especially in increasing the water level of the Caspian Sea, shipping and fishing were among other issues discussed in the meeting. Meanwhile, it was announced that a tripartite Iran-Soviet-Bulgaria transportation commission will be formed shortly.

Trade Cooperation Protocol With Bulgaria Signed

LD2405212688 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The second round of talks between Bulgarian and Iranian delegations headed respectively by Bulgaria's State Minister Krastiu Stanilov and Iran's Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Mohsen Safa'i Tarahani was held here today.

Stanilov is also the chairman of Association of Machine Building, Agriculture, and Construction Techniques.

In this meeting, the two sides reached agreements on mutual cooperation concerning heavy and light lift trucks production, exchange of bus and truck parts, tractor engine parts, and Iran's exports of mini-buses and Nissan pick-ups to Bulgaria.

At the end of the meeting a protocol on promotion of Tehran-Sofia industrial and economic cooperation in the field of heavy industries was signed.

According to the agreement, the volume of industrial-economic exchanges between the two countries amounts to dollars 40 million this year.

Central Bank Governor Departs for Sofia for Talks

LD2405213588 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank Majid Qasemi heading a delegation left here for Sofia today. He is carrying a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi for his Bulgarian counterpart Georgi Atanasov.

Qasemi, in a brief interview before his departure, said his talks with Bulgarian banking officials will mainly center on the role of banking system in mutual economic relations, as well as predicting [as received] banking measures to facilitate bilateral trade exchanges.

He said he is to set forth clear proposals on calculation of mutual transactions on the basis of another currency instead of dollar.

The volume of trade exchanges between the two countries for the current year was predicted at 600 million dollars in a protocol signed in Bulgaria in late March, Qasemi said. The amount stood at 320 million dollars last year.

During his four-day visit, Qasemi will also confer with Bulgarian prime minister and foreign minister.

Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov is to pay an official visit to Tehran in early June this year.

Tehran Daily on U.S. Goals, 'Covert Warfare'

NC2505114488 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 May 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Will Eventually Put U.S.-Iraq Schemes in Tatters"]

[Text] What the U.S. says and does are always in sharp contradiction. On the one hand, it voices intention to bridle the Persian Gulf crisis. On the other, it moves to establish a security belt to serve its own vested interests in the region. It even takes a step further, giving Iraq the go-ahead signal to raid oil tankers carrying Iranian oil.

The U.S. makes no bone to openly assure Iraq of its support. When Iraq raided an Iranian oil terminal on Saturday, the U.S. rushed to its support by jamming Iranian air fighters' radar sets in the area to undermine their operational capability during the period.

This approach has spurred Iraq to implement even more aggressive Persian Gulf policies, confident of U.S. backing. Indeed, in May, the U.S. gave Iraq a free hand to raid Iranian oil terminals. This was when the U.S. resorted to covert warfare, avoiding any military clash with Iran.

Ironically, the U.S. has repeatedly claimed neutrality in the war and expressed willingness to maintain security in the region. Yet it must be borne in mind that if the present situation persists in the war, the U.S. is not likely to accept any political initiative for the cessation of hostilities and resumption of security.

Though the U.S. pursues a policy aimed at limiting Iranian oil exports, it has other goals in sight. Firstly, the U.S. believes that this policy can adversely affect Iran's political and economic power bases.

Secondly, it holds that the policy can by weakening Iran overshadow Iran's attempt to win the support of non-Arab OPEC members, possibly even affecting future agreements between OPEC and non-OPEC wings.

Thirdly, the U.S. strives to outpace its rivals in the arms race. By regaining the confidence of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) the U.S. wants to top the list of arms suppliers to the regional states.

The U.S., however, is now terribly shaken at Iran's determination to take reprisal measures and is, therefore, bent on protecting ships against speedboats' attacks.

But what of U.S.-Iraq collaboration in attacking Iranian offshore oil platforms? This would only urge Iran to employ new tactics in the Persian Gulf eventually putting all their machinations in tatters.

Waging an electronic warfare against Iran and preparing ground for Iraq's attacks on commercial shipping would serve only one purpose. They will only thrust the Persian Gulf crisis into yet a more hectic phase, the consequences of which rest solely on Iraq and its White House supporters.

One point is as clear as the broad day light. U.S.-cum-Iraq aggressive policies (and collaboration) would by no means determine the fate of the war. Instead they will compel Iran into resorting to military solutions despite its dislike to do so.

And finally it will be Iran which will emerge victorious as it is only defending its most legitimate rights and fighting aggression and imperialist plots.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Attack on Halabjah Repelled

LD2505083988 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—An attempted Iraqi attack in Halabjah operational region, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province was totally crushed Wednesday morning.

Iraqi troops ventured to capture positions of Muslim forces of Iran in Halabjah but were immediately repelled sustaining heavy losses and casualties.

Bodies of the Iraqi soldiers lay scattered in the area and many captured Iraqis have been transferred to the rear side of the clash scenes.

The town on the Iraqi soil was liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants in mid-March.

Iraq Bombs Mazandaran Province

LD2505100388 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Iraqi war planes bombed a workers' quarters in Mazandaran Province, Caspian area, Wednesday morning. Several workers were martyred or injured and damage was inflicted on property.

Iraq Attacks Sar Dasht

LD2505110488 Tehran IRNA in English 1054 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—At least 28 civilians were reportedly martyred and scores of others injured in three rounds of Iraqi attacks on residential areas of the Kurdish populated border city of Sar Dasht and the nearby village of "Molla Shaykh", Wednesday morning.

The raids were carried out at the opening of a so-called "peace" conference in Baghdad.

Several homes and shops were damaged in the attacks on Sar Dasht. Two Iraqi spies were spotted by the people in the city while giving information to an agent and were arrested by security officers.

Another operation of the Baghdad regime in the opening day of its peace conference was bombardment of a workers' quarters in the Caspian coast province of Mazandaran.

Iraq Chemically Bombs Villages

LD2405164188 Tehran IRAN in English 1621 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 24, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed Buyen-e Pa'in village near the western border town of Sar Dasht in this western Iranian province at mid-day today, martying a villager and wounding ten others.

Over the past few days, Iraqi planes have chemically bombed at least five villages of Sar Dasht.

Also, on May 20, Iraqi warplanes bombarded residential quarters in the town of Paveh, in Kordestan Province. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of 50 civilians and wounding 150 others as well as damaging one school and several houses.

Communique No 3,212

LD2405162888 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets in four separate sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Maymak and east of Basra Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualities and losses on the enemy.

Announcing the above here today, the 3212th Joint Staff communique reported that all attacking planes returned safely to bases after carrying out their missions which took place at 06:00, 06:05, 06:10 and 07:15 hours local time (02:30, 02:35, 02:40 and 03:45 GMT).

Five Iraqi warplanes, attempting to violate the airspace of Iran Monday, were forced to flee by the tactical measures of the Islamic Republic Air Force.

Iranian Air Force jets also carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy, reconnoitering 17 vessels in the waterway.

Iranian naval units kept a close eye on foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf Monday besides monitoring movement of two Iraqi vessels around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms.

On the warfronts, battles between Iranian forces and Iraqi troops with mortar, artillery and other weapons continued Monday resulting in the killing and wounding of a large number of Ba'thist soldiers and destruction of several enemy gun emplacements, bunkers and observation posts.

Last night, a group of Iraqi soldiers attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in a northwestern front but were forced to flee with several killed and wounded when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and losses when Iranian forces shelled an enemy motorized column in a western theater yesterday.

On Monday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western sectors, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy, concluded the communique.

Mohammad Corps Dispatch

LD2405211588 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The third caravan of Mohammad (SAW) Corps consisting of volunteer forces will depart for the war fronts from various cities on June 5, the head of the basij (Mobilization) unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said here Tuesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani told reporters here that dedicated volunteer forces going to the battlefields will once again display their combat capability to destroy the war machine of the tottering regime of Iraq.

The first batch of Mohammad (SAW) corps despatched to the war fronts last year launched such crushing operations as "Karbala'-5" in which they destroyed vast part of Iraqi manpower and equipment in the southern sector of the Iraqi-imposed war, he said.

Rahmani noted that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and the global arrogance are trying in vain to trample upon the legitimate demands of the Islamic Republic by exerting political and military pressure on it and by threatening it with arms embargo.

But, he noted, they are quite unaware of this fact that the resistance and unity of the Iranian people will not be shattered under such pressures.

On June 5, 1963 the ex-shah's security forces gunned down over 15,000 anti-regime demonstrators in Tehran, the holy city of Qom and a number of other cities. The imam later described the event as a "prelude to the victory of Islam and the nation."

Pakistan

Shi'ites, Ismaelians Flee Sectarian Violence

BK2505092488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 25 May 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 (AFP)—Some 10,000 Shi'ites and Ismaelians have fled the northern town of Gilgit fearing an escalation of sectarian violence which has left up to 100 people reported dead, diplomats said Wednesday.

The Gilgit region, some 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of here, has been rocked by violent clashes between the Muslim Shi'ite and Sunni communities in the past two weeks. The Ismaeli sect is a Paris-based Shi'ite branch headed by the Aga Khan.

One witness to the recent violence in and around Gilgit said columns of smoke could be seen Monday rising from the village of Jalalabad, one of three or four villages first attacked by Sunni tribes Thursday.

Other witnesses have said Pakistan security forces had failed to step in and try to stop the violence.

Diplomats said that about 10,000 Shi'ites and Ismaelians had left Gilgit Sunday and Monday seeking refuge in Shi'ite and Ismaeli villages in the area away from the fighting, fearing an upsurge in sectarian violence.

Women, children and old people, some on foot but mostly on trucks or trailers pulled by tractors had left the northern mountain town, diplomatic sources said.

THE MUSLIM newspaper said Wednesday that Sunni tribesmen were still besieging Jalalabad, adding that local Pakistan Army units had done nothing to end the violence.

One Shi'ite official has said that at least 100 people have died in the sectarian violence, which witnesses said was sparked May 13 when the Shi'ites observed Al-Quds day for the liberation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in line with a call by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The situation worsened early last week, when the two groups failed to agree on the date of the end of the Muslim fast of Ramadan, the Shi'ites saying it should be Tuesday May 17 and the Sunnis putting it a day later.

A young Shi'ite was shot and wounded by Sunnis in Gilgit bazaar because he was smoking on Tuesday May 17, when according to the Sunnis Ramadan was not yet over, witnesses said.

Travellers arriving here from the region quoted Shi'ites as talking of massacres by the Sunnis.

Pakistan's Sunni Muslim government is seeking to play down the gravity of the clashes, for fear of alienating the Shi'ite minority, which makes up between 15 and 20 percent of the population, and its neighbour Iran, analysts said.

Pakistan has good relations with Iran, a predominantly Shi'ite nation, whose trade minister, Hasan Abedi-Ja-'fari, is currently on an official visit to Islamabad to sign various bilateral economic agreements.

Travellers to the region have stressed the passive role played by the police during the violent clashes in and around Gilgit and added that the Sunnis appeared to be far better armed than the Shi'ites.

Shi'ites, questioned Tuesday by tourists, said the security forces had failed to protect them and ignored the Sunni attacks.

A local magistrate said Wednesday that the authorities were in control of the situation and attributed the "recent bloody events" to criminal elements rather than sectarian problems.

Reportage on Visit of Iranian Commerce Minister

First Round of Talks

LD2405193688 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 24, IRNA — The first round of talks between visiting Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari and his Pakistani counterpart Mahbubul Haq started here Tuesday.

During the talks which focussed on mutual commercial ties and border trade between the two countries, the Pakistani minister promised that his country would do its best to provide Iran with necessary facilities to import its needed cargo via Karachi port.

Abedi-Ja'fari said in reply that with regards to common religious and cultural ties between the two countries Pakistan occupies a special place in Iran's foreign relations.

Meanwhile, Abedi-Ja'fari and his entourage participated in a luncheon given by President Ziaul Haq today. Abedi-Ja'fari is also scheduled to meet other Pakistani officials, including Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo's senior adviser.

Trade Ties Discussed

BK2405155088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Pakistan will supply 100,000 tons of iri rice and other commodities to Iran in exchange for oil. Accaording to an agreement, Pakistan has expressed a willingness to meet Iran's wheat, sugar, and fertilizer needs. A decision to this effect was reached today during talks between Pakistan's commerce minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and his Iranian counterpart, Mr Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari. An in-depth assessment of Pakistan-Iranian trade relations was made during the talsk. The possibility of concluding a 5-year long-term commodity exchange protocol between the two countries was also considered. The Iranian delegation also expressed a desire for transit facilities and an increase in border trade between the two countries.

Meets With President

LD2405194388 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 24, IRNA—Iran's Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, currently here at the head of a delegation, met with President Ziaul Haq Tuesday and conveyed to him a verbal message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

In the meeting, President Ziaul Haq, referring to friendly ties between Iran and Pakistan, said his country is willing to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields. The Pakistani president also expressed hope that he could pay an official visit to Tehran in the future.

In a separate meeting today, Abedi-Ja'fari held talks with Pakistani Minister of Finance and Planning Yasin Khan Wattoo on ways of promoting bilateral economic ties. The two also expressed hope that with finalisation of arrangements for preferential tariffs within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran and Pakistan could increase the volume of mutual trade exchanges.

The Pakistani minister said that his country would provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with necessary facilities to transport its needed cargo by land and railway via Pakistan.

The Iranian commerce minister also met with Pakistani premier's adviser on agricultural affairs Sartaj Aziz [name as received] today and discussed with him Tehran-Islamabad trade exchanges.

Prime Minister Junejo Visits South Korea

For coverage of Prime Minister Junejo's visit to South Korea 24-28 May, including his talks with ROK President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae, see the South Korea section of the 25 May East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Cancels Appointments; Illness Cited

BK2505103488 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1006 GMT 25 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 May (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene has cancelled his official appointments for a few days on the advice of his doctors on account of a throat infection and mild fever, states a press communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat today.

It states Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa presided over the weekly cabinet meeting today.

Provincial Council Candidate Killed by Gunmen

BK2505064288 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0615 GMT 25 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 May (LANKA PUWATH)—A 72-year-old provincial council candidate of the United Socialist Alliance (USA) was shot dead this morning by two Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front] gunmen in the southern coastal town of Panadura, 26 kilometres from Colombo. Police told LANKA PUWATH the victim was H.V. Rodriguez (72) who had only last evening addressed an election meeting at Panadura. He was killed when at his son's house.

IPKF Continues To Battle LTTE in Mullaitivu

BK2505124488 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1155 GMT 25 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 25 (LANKA PUWATH)—Latest reports from the battlefield at Mullaitivu in north eastern Sri Lanka states that as the Indian troops continued their operation against the major LTTE base stretching southward along the coast from Alampil to Kokilai, a distance of about 18 kilometres, the number of terrorists killed and wounded had risen to 53 today, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said 23 LTTE terrorists had been killed and 30 wounded in action while 2 Indian soldiers were killed and 8 wounded. The sources said that Indian troops relentlessly moving to their target had encountered and encircled the main LTTE staging post for the supply of arms, ammunition and explosives to northern Sri Lanka including Jaffna.

The IPKF had penetrated the LTTE defenses which were heavily booby trapped as Indian troops moved in. The IPKF found 3 heavily fortified camps and underground bunkers each of which provided protection for 50 to 60 terrorists during air raids and also stock large caches of arms and ammunition and an elaborate network of communication trenches linked to the defensive system.

There was heavy fighting and LTTE heavily booby trapped the area as they withdrew. Official sources said the fighting was continuing and IPKF were pursuing the terrorists.

IPKF Captures 5 LTTE Members, Seizes Weapons

BK2505085088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0757 GMT 25 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 May (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force apprehended five LTTE terrorists, including a member of its political wing yesterday. Indian soldiers also seized arms, ammunition and explosives in search operations in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said Sivapathsunderam, an LTTE political wing terrorist was captured at Achchuveli in Jaffna. The IPKF seized 2 claymore mines, 1 rifle magazine, 2 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and 2 grenades in operations at Chunnakam and Manippai.

In the Trincomalee District, the IPKF apprehended 4 terrorist suspects and during a raid on a terrorist camp at Kinniya, seized 1 boat, some rations. In a Indian troops seized 2 hand grenades and 2 rounds of 7.62 ammunition. [sentence as received]